

SOCIAL HISTORY

Social Structure

There was a resident lord in the 13th and early 14th century, but the Berlay family had left the township by the time of the Black Death.¹ Fifty-five households were assessed for the poll tax in 1379, but only one – Robert Basy, draper, 6d. – paid more than 4d.²

After acquiring the manor in 1519-20, the Twisleton family removed to Barlow and soon held most of the land. They were described as esquires until 1629 when George Twisleton became a baronet. His widow, Catherine, and her new husband, Henry Cholmley, who was knighted in 1641, resided here as manorial lords until the 1650s or 60s. Thereafter, several ‘gentlemen’ were recorded here, including George Shillitoe (d. 1658) and John Tomlinson (d. 1701).³

The hearth tax return of 1672 shows that Barlow had a very broad social base.⁴ Of the 39 households recorded, over two-thirds had only one hearth. The highest assessment, by far, was Mrs. Constance Sawyer’s 17 hearths, presumably at Barlow Hall. Her husband, Thomas, was a yeoman who had died in 1671 possessing £835 in movable goods, including 56 cattle, 10 oxen, 24 horses and 53 sheep.⁵ Below the Sawers were two householders, George Remington (five hearths) and Robert Todd (four hearths). The latter died just months after the assessment with £305 in goods, including 28 cattle, 8 oxen, and 50 sheep, but apparently no horses.⁶ Then came seven householders with two hearths – such as the blacksmith Richard Ibbotson, who died in 1673 with an inventory of £39.⁷ Beneath these were the vast majority of Barlow’s households, 27 in all, who had only one hearth. This group included Roger Sander, Edward Willowby, and William Watson, husbandman, who died later in the decade each possessing £24 to £120 in goods, including 9 to 14 cattle.⁸ Finally, two households, about which nothing is known, were ‘Omitted by reason of poverty’.

A rough cross-section of householders at the end of the 17th century is provided by the parish register, which recorded occupations from August 1698 to March 1703.⁹ There were 32 records of occupations for Barlow during these years, namely one gentleman, one yeoman, one bachelor, six farmers, five husbandmen, fourteen day labourers, one tailor, one cordwainer, one shoemaker, one sackweaver, and one ‘pooreman’.

In the 1780s, two sources provide rather contradictory evidence about Barlow’s social structure. According to the land tax assessment of 1782, there were perhaps fifteen properties occupied by farmers and only five households in cottages (see above, Table 3).¹⁰ However,

¹ See above: Manors.

² Fenwick (ed.), *Poll Taxes*, III, p. 273.

³ BIA, SELBY/WILLS (administration of George Shillitoe, 29 Mar 1658/9); BIA, PR/BRAY 3.

⁴ Hey (ed.), *Hearth Tax*, p. 321.

⁵ BIA, SELBY/WILLS (inventory of Thomas Sawyer, 24 Mar. 1670/71).

⁶ BIA, Selby/Wills (inventory of Robert Todd, 30 Nov. 1672).

⁷ BIA, Selby/Wills (inventory of Richard Ibbison, 29 Apr 1673).

⁸ BIA, Selby/Wills (inventories of Roger Sander, 22 Dec. 1674; Edward Willowby, 8 Nov. 1677; William Watson, 4 Jun. 1672).

⁹ BIA, PR/BRAY/3. This would largely exclude servants as they would be much less likely to have children or to die than older householders. The repetition of some names (sometimes with different occupations) means that several men may have been recorded twice.

¹⁰ WYAS-W, QE 13/3/1 (1782).

the occupations of fathers recorded in the parish register from 1778 to 1789 suggest a much higher proportion of labourers or cottagers. In addition to millers and a cordwainer, it recorded 21 farmers and 51 labourers, suggesting a ratio of approximately 2.4 labourers to every farmer over this period.¹¹

From the late 18th century to early 20th century, Barlow had roughly four social groups. A very small group of proprietors – headed the Thompsons, who had inherited the manor from the Twisletons – stood at the top of the social scale, though they were almost always non-resident. Below them were the tenant-farmers, consistently numbering around 15 or 16, perhaps half of whom occupied farms over one hundred acres. The more substantial farmers employed agricultural labourers and farm servants – usually only a few each, but almost twenty in the case of the Stables brothers of Barlow Hall in 1841.¹² The third group consisted of a handful craftsmen and small traders who were probably approximately equal in status to the smallest tenant-farmers. The lowest and most numerous group were the agricultural workers. Their numbers seem to have increased over the course of this period, so that there were over fifty by the middle of 19th century. In addition, there were several paupers in the village. Five adults and five children were recorded as permanent recipients of poor relief in 1802-03.¹³

The number of farmers remained stable until the late 20th century, but employment situation varied somewhat. Around half of the farmers were employers in 1831, but this increased to two-thirds by 1851 and this proportion was the same in 1941.¹⁴ During this period, the number of agricultural workers per farmer in Barlow ranged from a high of nearly 3.7 in 1841, to a low of 2.6 in 1901.¹⁵ In the post-war years it dropped still further, reaching 1.6 workers per farmer by 1963.¹⁶ In addition, the selling off of the Londesbrough estate in the 1910s resulted in the multiplication of landowners, some of whom were owner-occupiers.¹⁷

Community Activities

Few records of village sociability survive before the 20th century. In the 1720s, John Arnold of Bracken House and William Tomlinson each had a ‘drinkhouse’, which presumably provided a place for locals to gather in their leisure time, and there was an alehouse here later in the century.¹⁸ By the early 19th century there was an inn and a public house, although the former had disappeared by 1890 and the latter by 1972.¹⁹

In the mid-19th century, the field to the west of Barlow Hall was known as ‘Foot Ball Close’, suggesting that matches were probably played there.²⁰ At around the same time, much of the Common had been converted into a training course for horses, though this was not recorded

¹¹ BIA, PR/BRAY/6.

¹² TNA, HO 107/1280/6 (census, 1841).

¹³ *Abstract of the Answers and Returns ... Relative to the Expense and Maintenance of the Poor in England* (London, 1804), p. 633.

¹⁴ Census, 1831 (printed abstracts), TNA, HO 107/2351 (census, 1851); TNA, MAF 32/1113/159.

¹⁵ TNA, HO 107/1280/6 (census, 1841); TNA, HO 107/2351 (census, 1851); TNA, RG 10/4731 (census, 1871); TNA, RG 11/4706 (census, 1881); TNA, RG 13/4427 (census, 1901).

¹⁶ TNA, MAF 68/4856.

¹⁷ See above: Landholding.

¹⁸ See above: Economic History – Trades and Crafts.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ BIA, TA335.S.

on the detailed map of 1890.²¹ In the 1920s, Barlow had a ‘fairly successful racehorse trainer’ named Hewitt Henry Golightly.²²

In 2010, the village included a recently-refurbished community centre at the end of Park Lane: ‘It incorporates a fully licensed members club which is managed by a committee of members who are village residents, a village hall and a large playing field.’ In addition, the parish council had a smaller second playing field nearby.²³

Education

There is no evidence of educational provision outside before the 19th century, though the township’s children may have received some instruction at Brayton Church or, later, Barlow Chapel. There were bibles and other books recorded in probate records from the 1650s onwards.²⁴

A schoolmistress, S. Massey, taught here in 1838.²⁵ By 1841, Luke Fletcher had become schoolmaster and continued in this role for at least a decade, teaching at the ‘School House & Garden’ that was situated at White House farm in 1847.²⁶ In addition, there was a Sunday School during this period. On 30 March 1851, there were 32 Sunday scholars and, in 1865, the vicar of Brayton reported that 35 to 40 children attended most weeks.²⁷

In the 1850s, the schoolhouse at White House Farm was replaced by ‘an excellent day-school’, built at the juncture of Barlow Common Road and Mill Lane.²⁸ In 1872, it was described as ‘Col. G. H. Thompson’s School’, teaching 62 boys and girls, and a plan from that decade shows it as a single room (9.2m x 5.0m) with six long benches.²⁹ In 1893, George Millership, the master, reportedly taught only 30 children on average.³⁰ The school received a poor evaluation after an inspection in 1918, but had evidently improved by 1922 and the inspectors consistently gave it positive evaluations thereafter.³¹ In 1935, for example, the quality of teaching was ‘remarkably good’ despite ‘difficult & cramped conditions’.³²

²¹ OS Map 6"/1:10560 (1853 edn); OS Map 25"/1:2500 (1890 edn).

²² Frost, *More Old Views of Selby*, p. 40.

²³ <www.barlowparishcouncil.co.uk> (accessed 08/09/2010).

²⁴ BIA, SELBY/WILLS (inventories of John Beale, n.d. [1672?]); Paul Inchbald, 10 Feb. 1657/8; Susanna Shilleto, 30 Sep. 1666; Thomas Sawer, 24 Mar. 1670/71; Joseph Inchbald, 12 Jan. 1697/8; Thomas Robinson, [c.1699]; and will of John Jackson, 9 Jan. 1766).

²⁵ White, *History, Gazetteer, and Directory of the West-Riding of Yorkshire* (1838), II, p. 308.

²⁶ TNA, HO 107/1280/6 (census, 1841), p. 4; TNA, HO 107/2351 (census, 1851), p. 1; BIA, TA335.S, p. 7, no. 187.

²⁷ John Wolffe (ed), *Yorkshire Returns of the 1851 Census of Religious Worship* (3 vols; Borthwick Texts and Studies, vol. 25, 31, 32; 2000-2005), III, p. 172; Edward Royle and Ruth M. Larsen (eds), *Archbishop Thomson’s Visitation Returns for the Diocese of York, 1865* (Borthwick Texts and Studies, vol. 34), p. 70.

²⁸ OS Map 25"/1:2500 (1890 edn). Morrell, writing in the mid-1860s, describes it as being built ‘about twelve years ago’: William Wilberforce Morrell, *The History and Antiquities of Selby ... With Notices of the Neighbouring Parish of Brayton* (Selby, 1867), p. 323.

²⁹ TNA, ED 21/19852.

³⁰ *Kelly’s Directory of the West Riding* (1893), p. 258. For other schoolmistresses and masters, see TNA, RG 10/4731 (census, 1871); TNA, RG 11/4706 (census, 1881).

³¹ TNA, ED 21/19852.

³² TNA, ED 21/43687; ED 21/64538.

The school became Barlow Primary in 1946, when it was ‘reorganised for Junior Mixed and Infant children’ and ‘senior scholars’ transferred to schools in Selby.³³ By the early 1960s, there were only 26 children taught here, ten of whom were associated with the Ordnance Depot or the nearby War Department Police Quarters.³⁴ Shortly thereafter, in 1967, the school was moved to a new, larger site on the main street, next to the Methodist Chapel.³⁵ Since then the number of pupils has increased dramatically. Most recently, in 2010, this Church of England Primary School had 57 children.³⁶

Charities

In the medieval and early modern period, nearly all private charity here must have been informal and occasional. There are, however, two examples of the lords of the manor bequeathing substantial sums to be disbursed at their deaths: Christopher Twisleton gave £10 ‘to the poor people of Barley and the rest of the poor people of the parish of Braiton’ in 1623, and Sir George Twisleton gave £20 ‘to the poore of the parish of Barley’ in 1635.³⁷

The first evidence of an endowed charity comes in 1641, when Robert Walker gave the profits of 27a. of land in Burn to be distributed to the poor of the whole parish of Brayton, so that in 1896 there was £10 7s. distributed at Christmas to 17 poor people in Barlow as well as roughly equal amount to the poor in the five other townships.³⁸

At her death in 1672, Catherine Cholmley, widow of Sir George, created a trust which was to pay 40s. ‘to the poor of the Towne of Barley’ at Christmas.³⁹ In 1816, this was described as a £2 rent-charge vested in the overseer.⁴⁰ By 1829, it was considered ‘lost’, but later in the century Robert Crosthwaite, then vicar of Brayton, identified the land and induced the owner to resume payment. Hence, in 1896, the vicar customarily ‘hands the money to his curate, who, in consultation with the church-warden and the principal inhabitants of Barlow, selects 11 poor householders, to whom he gives 4s. each at Christmas. None of these persons are in receipt of Poor Law relief.’⁴¹

By 1716, the lords of the manor had built Barlow Chapel and provided £10 per year for a preacher, increasing the salary to £30 by 1764.⁴²

In the 19th century, a benefaction board in Brayton Church reported that Mary Pockley gave £100 or £150, out of which poor widows in Brayton and Barlow were to be provided with ‘a

³³ TNA, ED 161/12517.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ofsted, ‘Barlow Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School: Inspection Report’ (URN: 121548; 24-25 Feb. 2010), p. 1.

³⁷ BIA, York/Wills, vol. 37, fol. 187; TNA, PROB 11/169.

³⁸ *Abstract of the Returns of Charitable Donations* (1816), pp. 1510-1511; *Endowed Charities: Administrative County of the West Riding* (1899), pp. 50, 52-54.

³⁹ BIA, York/Wills, vol. 53, fol. 143-144.

⁴⁰ *Abstract of Charitable Donations*, pp. 1510-1511.

⁴¹ *Endowed Charities: West Riding*, pp. 50, 56; White, *History, Gazetteer, and Directory of the West-Riding of Yorkshire* (1838), II, p. 308.

⁴² See below: Religious History.

new black gown for Christmas Day', but the sum was lost – reputedly after being 'invested in shipping which was lost at sea' – many years previously.⁴³

⁴³ *Abstract of Charitable Donations*, pp. 1510-1511; *Endowed Charities: West Riding*, pp. 50, 55.