

UP AND DOWN THE TOWPATH

CANAL EMPLOYMENT

Unfortunately, there does not appear to be any lists of Canal employees so it is necessary to track them down from other sources. Therefore this list of Weare Giffard canal workers is by no means complete, but does show that a number of families were dependent on the canal for their livelihood. Does your house or family feature in the list? The spellings of names and places are as they were recorded at the time.

1851 Census

NAME OCCUPATION	ADDRESS	AGE	WHERE BORN	
Blake William	Wear Quay	56	Westleigh	bargeman
Cole Richard	Wear Dock	56	Gt Torrington	bargeman
Copp William	Allspill	41	W.G.	bargeman
Easton James	village	64	W.G.	bargeman
Green Thomas	village	76	Alverdiscott	bargeman
Hartnoll Nicholas	village	50	W.G.	bargeman
Hartnoll William	Wear Quay	63	Gt Torrington	bargeman
Hookway Samuel	Wear Dock	63	W.G.	bargeman
Isaac Thomas	Wear Dock	82	Langtree	former bargeman
Scoynes William	Wear Dock	44	Chittlehampton	bargeman
				(he was drowned in March 1869, when employed as a lighterman)
Smith Thomas	Allspill	58	High Bickington	bargeman
				(he was drowned in June 1857, when employed as a lighterman)
Smith William	village	49	Parkham	bargeman
				(in 1861 he was living at Davey's Tenement and by 1871 at Beech Cottage)

1861 Census

Burden John smith	Wyatts	17	W.G.	anchor
Cole William	Chapel Place	33	W.G.	bargeman
Cooke George	New Building	28	Tawstock	boatman
				(by 1871 he was employed as a bargeman)
Copp William junior	Allspill	23	W.G.	Ships carpenter*
Huskings James	Salterns	55	W.G.	boatman
Huskings William	Allspill	50	W.G.	bargeman
Mounce Richard	Chickery Cottage	48	Langtree	bargeman
Robins Nelson	Bensons		25 Bideford	
boatman				
Warman William	Allspill	43	W.G.	bargeman

NAME	ADDRESS	AGE	WHERE BORN	OCCUPATION
1871 Census				
Brown James	Bensons Cottage	36	Monkleigh	bargeman
Shaddick George bargeman	Bensons Cottage	40	High Bickington	

1867

Delbridge James employed at Canal saw mill NDJ-H

1868

Harris George employed at Sealock NDJ-H

If any of your ancestors are named above, or if you know of any who worked on the canal but are not named above, please inform the Editor. Have any tales been passed down the family?

Refs: Census return, DRO and North Devon Journal-Herald

