**CLEMENTHORPE TALK NOTES MAY 2020**

**PART 1 NOTES ON VICTORIAN INDUSTRY IN YORK**

1. **Intro Slide**

Look at 19C York overall, and Clementhorpe’s industry in particular

**2 York’s economy at the start of the Victorian era**

1840s – service sector dominates York employment.

Essentially the industrial revolution passes York by (at least initially) – so York is still largely a pre-industrial town by then. Large % of the workforce in:

* Domestic service
* Tailors, milliners, dressmakers and shoemakers
* Other shopkeepers – many sold food or other locally produced necessities

**2A Where did people work?**

In 1841, 71.7% of the 3,235 women in employment in York were employed in domestic service.

A further 22.3% of women were employed in ‘handicraft’ industries and retailing, along with 44.5% of the 7,774 men in employment. These businesses included the bakers, booksellers, butchers, inn-keepers, grocers, tailors, saddlers, etc. who abounded in York.

Only 8.9% of the male workforce was engaged in what could reasonably be described as ‘modern manufacturing’ - glass, ironworks, boot and shoe makers

So – mainly handicrafts and small-scale workshops, like dealers, most of their custom was York’s affluent families and nearby farms and estates. Still plenty of aristocrats and gentry within 10 miles of York by 1831, so plenty of work for:

* Jewellers
* Tanners
* Chemists
* Linen manufacturers
* Comb-makers
* Builders
* Domestic servants

**3 The start of bigger things: The Old Railway Station (1841)**

As well as rail services, York was starting to repair locomotives and manufacture carriages and wagons by 1850. Railway employment increased substantially from 1840 onwards

**4 Photos – Harkers was Yorkshire Insurance, the shop is in Stonegate**

Stonegate a busy retail street even then. Insurance, professional services, retail were growing.

**5 Census of Population 1851**

The population of York expanded from its 1801 figure of 16,846 to 36,000 by 1851 and would rise to 77,914 by 1901

NB Small scale manufacturing (BUT 513 in railways work – Queen Street), huge numbers in domestic service, distribution and construction

Railways rapidly becomes York’s biggest employer, with carriageworks and people and goods movement. NB New railway station opened 25 June 1877.

1841 – 41, 1851 – 513, 1900 – 5,500 (50% of these at the carriageworks)

**6 Review by the year 1900**

**The population of York more than doubled. There was a radical shift in employment patterns:**

* Manufacturing switched wholesale from handicrafts to factories, especially railways (5,500 jobs by 1901, 50% in the carriageworks) – we’ll see where Clementhorpe fits into this picture.
* An absolute decline in agriculture
* Clothing trades in York lost ground to factories elsewhere
* Numbers in domestic service rose – but not as a percentage (down from 17% to 10%)
* Big rise in numbers in the army (Imphal 1877) and in local and central government

Includes people running the railways (offices) and the manufacture of carriages, wagons and (to 1905) locomotives. Image is Holgate – where the carriageworks expanded rapidly from the 1880s onwards.

**7 Confectionery and other industries**

Terrys – 1864, production moved from St Helen’s Square to Clementhorpe

Rowntrees – by the end of the 19C production had largely moved from Tanner Moat to Haxby Road

Cravens – and others

**7A Other York industries:**

Leetham’s Mill (Hungate c600 jobs)

Thomas Cooke (Buckingham Works)

York Glass Works (Fishergate)

Bleasdales/Raimes and co (chemicals, drugs)

Printing

**So – by 1900**

York is becoming a more modern (if recognisably medieval) city in its political, cultural and economic life. A manufacturing and communications centre – but still a market town with cattle and sheep being driven through the streets – indeed the cattle market (Paragon Street) grew in importance. Still a lot of more domestic scale industry and business as well.

**Occupational structure, 1851-1901 (Victoria County History)**

The industries that expanded:

Railway employment (5,500 jobs)

Flour milling – heavily industrialised

Confectionery trades – 2,000 jobs by 1901

To a lesser degree:

Glass employment (159-295)

Printing (117 in 1871 to 303 in 1891)

But – York’s main characteristic – still small-scale production.

**Part 2 CLEMENTHORPE NOTES**

**8 CLEMENTHORPE HISTORY NOTES**

**(Photo from Imagine York)**

**9 Local History Society**

**Huge tribute to John Stevens and Mave Morris of the Clements Hall Local History Group, as much of this information is drawn from their website project on Clementhorpe Industry.**

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**1840 - 17 manufacturing and traders in Clementhorpe. Employment categories were bone crusher, boot and shoemaker, brewer and maltster, thread, flax, nails, boat building, timber merchant, beer making and shopkeepers. All in small scale distribution or manufacture – includes a couple of beer houses/brewers and a couple of shops.**

The Boatyard – a very long history dating back centuries

Clementhorpe’s main industrial period was c1850-1950

NB Chemical manure works and (from 1864) Terrys where the brewery and thread mill once were.

19C Clementhorpe – a growing number of railway workers living in the area but Clementhorpe developed piecemeal and was not able to provide labour (yet) for the couple of big industries.

**10 MAP OF CLEMENTHORPE 1850s**

Map shows no housing south of the road Clementhorpe by this stage. Does show industry north of Clementhorpe: Bone Mill, Brewery, Thread Mill and Boat Yard. NB No Skeldergate Bridge

Clementhorpe becomes much more urbanised, 1850-1910.

1. First phase was speculative housing in Clementhorpe (road), Darnborough and Vine Street
2. Second phase (most prolific) was after 1865 – far more widespread house building including for lower paid, unskilled, semi-skilled workers and for those who worked on the river and for industries such as Terrys, St Clements Glassworks (medicine bottles) and the York Confectionery Company
3. Housing after 1885 – infill with, from 1900, Colenso and River Streets on the disused St Clements Glassworks site

**1850 – new houses in Bishopgate and Clementhorpe frontages and industry started up along the Ouse frontage. So, 1850s trades include:**

**Auctioneer**

**Skeldergate Ferry**

**2 x boatbuilder**

**Joiner tea dealer**

**Corn merchant**

**Flax spinner**

**Agent**

**Landlord (Slip Inn)**

**Hackney carriage driver**

**Guano merchant (bird droppings used as fertiliser or chemical feedstock)**

**Dye works – way down Terry Avenue**

**Timber Yard**

**INDIVIDUAL INDUSTRIES**

**11/12 PUBS AND BREWING**

In 1785 there was a brewer (J Wormald) in Clementhorpe. The Clementhorpe Brewery was listed in directories in 1825 and 1850

The Slip Inn (20 Clementhorpe) dates back to at least 1840. Was rebuilt 1902. Won the York Camra Pub of the Year in April 2020. Cottage to the rear was once part of the boatyard

The Swan (16 Bishopgate Street) – first recorded as a beerhouse and shop in 1856. Became a pub by end 19C. NB original 1930s interior.

Navigation Tavern/Inn was demolished 1879. (near Skeldergate Bridge)

One firm had disappeared as a result of a merger as the Clementhorpe Brewery was converted to an iron works (Calvert’s) following its merger with Friargate Brewery in 1854.

Howe and Cooper were listed as the brewers, maltsters and spirit merchants.

**13 CLEMENTHORPE SHIPBUILDING**

Suggestion that shipbuilding took place from medieval times. Not huge vessels as they had to get through Naburn Lock. Most boats were between 40 and 120 tons

Shipbuilding took place outside Skeldergate Postern in the 17th century.

By 18C York was in competition with other inland and coastal shipyards. York yards focussed on smaller vessels – sloops and keels – and ship repair and overhaul.

In the 1770s Brigantines were being made in York

1836 – slipway built. Ouse Navigation Trustees. There were winches and chains, and a hauling bridge over the slipway.

Slipway lasted c100 years.

Many of York boatbuilders were in Clementhorpe or Skeldergate , ie on this side of the Ouse.

Ship launches drew crowds.

NB Some shipyards got in financial difficulties. There were colourful characters and some accidents.

Pleasure cruises

Boats could be moored at wharves right outside the industrial premises. Terry Avenue was a towpath in those days

**14-16 A SLIGHT DIVERSION: HORSE DRAWN TRAVEL**

Breaking up the slides a little, remember most commercial/industrial activity was smaller scale – local markets served by horse or water with raw materials brought in by water and later by rail.

Coal heating, gas lighting, transport by horse, boat or on foot. Think Dickens!

15 Horse trough, Bishopgate Street (NB Henry Richardson was a tanner). Henry Richardson founded the York branch of the RSPCA and the horse trough in Bishopgate Street is dedicated to him – incorrectly giving his dates as 1813-1895.

**RICHARDSON’S CHEMICAL MANURE WORKS**

### Starts with Isaac Richardson establishing a tannery at Cherry Hill House in the late 18C. He was a Quaker with family roots in Great Ayton. Isaac was the second son of Isaac (Senior), from whom he learned his trade. Following his death in 1791 the tannery business was continued by his sons Samuel and William, under the trading name of William Henry Richardson & Co Agricultural Merchants.

### The Richardson family owned a tannery outside Skeldergate Postern where a horse engine was used for grinding bark and pumping water. By early 19C they were manufacturing chemical fertilisers – but the site was once occupied by a Bone Mill (ground up animal bones and slaughterhouse waste used as an organic fertiliser). Regular complaints about the smell. The Chemical Manure Works was much larger premises. Richardson’s were taken over by Hargreaves Fertilisers in 1973 and the premises were demolished soon after

16 Vine Street boot scraper – see also former horse and cart openings.

Horses – ubiquitous in the 19C. There was quite extensive keeping of livestock in residential areas – cow keepers, pigs, horses. Cities (not just York) were noisy and smelt awful – again issues of smells, disease and pollution.

Polluted air and water led to outbreaks of serious diseases. Uncontrolled industrial processes. Plagues, unsanitary conditions – e.g. York Confectionery Company and Clementhorpe Beck.

NB Several reports of illness and disease – e.g. Yorkshire Gazette – insanitary conditions in the Clementhorpe and Bishopthorpe Road areas -> typhoid.

**17 TERRYS**

The site of the Clementhorpe factory had originally been leased by Terry's in 1858, when the company was still mainly known for candied peel, medicated lozenges and other sweets. It was on the site of a former brewery, but a 'new' confectionery factory was built in 1862. Workers moved across from St Helen’s Square to Clementhorpe in 1864. They made candied peel – all supplies including coal and sugar arrived by steamer along the river. Steam packet vessels. Innovative steam powered machinery.

By 1886 there was a factory specifically for chocolate. Terrys had generally wealthy clientele. 600 gallons galvanised iron tanks for transport. Manufacturing and admin buildings. NB Furnaces with chimneys.

Joseph Terry - became a Councillor in 1860, 4 x Lord Mayor and died in 1898.

Son Thomas built up an export trade with Australia and New Zealand.

By mid 1890s they occupied 1.2 hectares and had started to offer a wider range of products including some chocolates. NB Lozenges etc. By 1890 there was a workforce of some 300 at Clementhorpe, mainly working a 59-hour week (cut to 47 by 1919)

The highest state of development was in the 1920s. In 1920 a larger, five-storey building was added and the factory continued to operate even after the business expanded to [Bishopthorpe](https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/search/?search=Bishopthorpe&topic_id=3217) Road by the end of the 1920s

There was a big cocoa storage facility in Vine Street, but the company outgrew the site and manufacturing moved to Bishopthorpe Road, with Clementhorpe left for storage, sugared almonds and basic chocolate production (more fancy chocolates at Bishopthorpe Road)

Clementhorpe was quite old fashioned by the 1920s – little departments all over the place.

No air conditioning. Boiling shops were in a converted 18C brewery.

By 1937 most Terrys staff at Bishopthorpe Road – just 136 still at Clementhorpe.

**MORE SPECIFIC ON THE VIEW IN THE PHOTO (C/O IMAGINE YORK)**

AUGUST 6, 1974: A view that no-one today will ever see again, looking out over the top of the [Terry's](https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/search/?search=Terry%27s&topic_id=3282) factory at Clementhorpe towards the River Ouse. The tree-lined further bank of the river at St George's Field can be seen clearly in the top left of the photo.

Ultimately, however, the Clementhorpe factory closed. A chimney was pulled down in 1974 and the rest of the site was demolished in 1987.

**ADD YORK CONFECTIONERY COMPANY**

Run by a Mr Henderson. Started in Fossgate 1867, later moved to Fenwick Street off Bishopthorpe Road (1870)

Specialised in candied peel and mint rock for seaside resorts. Closed around 1880 when Mr Henderson went bankrupt.

Factory name: Nunthorpe Peel Works. Became a storage warehouse later – now residential

Had a big fire in 1876 – was three large blocks of buildings running parallel with each other. Lost in the fire were tons of bags of lemon peel, sugar, lozenges, sweets etc

**ADD HERBERT BACKHOUSE AND COMPANY**

River Street Clementhorpe.

Established c1899 (he had earlier businesses in Walmgate and Ogleforth)

Chocolate moulders – fondants, creams and chocolate centres, chocolate fruit desserts – i.e. “fine chocolate”

Closed 1935 – there was a sale of machinery and equipment as well as the premises.

He lived in Bishopthorpe Road for a while – moved to Acomb Road. His dates: 1865-1950

**18-19 THE CO-OP SOCIETY WORKS**

1859 – York Equitable Industrial Society Ltd. (later the Co-Operative Society) catered from its foundation in 1859 for working classes and skilled railway workers and clerks.

The society joined the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) in 1899 – took on new premises in Clementhorpe with a coal wharf (where Roomzzz is now), offices, warehousing, stables for 30 horses, wagon sheds etc.

A bacon business soon followed, and a bakery

The bakery closed in 1968. NB Waterfront House is a conversion of part of the CWS premises.

The Co-op – some 10,000 members in York at one time. Good working practices, education and leisure activities for members and they supported sick and retired members.

By 1931 the Co-op warehouses had been built to the north and Rowntree Park had been laid out to the south.

19 Riverside Cottage was a horse keepers house for CWS

**20 CLEMENTHORPE IRON FOUNDRY (CALVERT’S IRON FOUNDRY)**

Their premises formerly used as a malthouse and as Clementhorpe Brewery. Short lived (less than ten years 1854-1862). Was a large foundry with an engine house, smith’s shop and stabling etc. Huge machinery including tramway steam engines and cranes. 11,800 sq. yards of premises = 2 ½ acres)

Suffered a fire in 1858. They won several big contracts but went bankrupt in 1862. They employed 600 – but many were on contract outside York.

1861 – collapse of the new Lendal Bridge which they helped to construct.

**21 CLEMENTHORPE MALTINGS**

Clementhorpe Maltings in Lower Darnborough Street is a 19C maltings. A rare survivor of York’s industrial past. It was pretty much state of the art when it opened with extensive modern equipment (in what had been a very traditional industry). It is known that in 1895 it was operated by the Tadcaster Tower Brewery Company Ltd, who owned 280 pubs and off licences across the region, they subsequently purchased the property in 1903 and ran it as a malting house up until the late 1950s. So - roughly 1890-1960.

The Maltings were periodically upgraded and altered. Main components – the kiln and malthouse (which together form an integrated building). Malthouses – series of germination floors (for barley). It is among a few malting houses to survive and is unique as it still houses much of its original and now rare malting machinery.

The Maltings was purchased by the Council in 1963 after lying empty a while to be used as a warehouse and the premises were converted into residential use in 2016. The conversion, which retained many historic features, won regional and national RICS awards in 2017.

**ADDITIONAL INDUSTRIES**

**DE LITTLE PRINT WORKS**

Vine Street, 1888-1998.

Manufacture of wooden type for adverts, posters, letterheads and theatre bills. Jim De Little (founder Robert’s grandson) closed the business in 1998

**CLEMENTHORPE THREAD MILLS**

A 19C phenomenon – there were three of these mills, focused on shoe threads and flax. Boots and shoes tied with waxed flax thread. The flax plant’s stem was fibrous under the bark, which could be spun into various products. Quite a process accessing the fibres.

**CLEMENTHORPE NAIL WORKS**

Once a side business to pub landlords there were more serious concerns in 1867 – the Patent Nail Company and the Birmingham and North of England Nail Co Ltd.

One of them occupied the old iron foundry. Nails were needed for wooden buildings, machinery, fencing and shoe-ing horseshoes. The companies were sold in the 1870s.

**CLEMENTHORPE GLASS WORKS**

St Clements Glass Company. Established c1875 – ceased trading 1899. They made medicine bottles - companies often had their names embossed on the glass. Not great premises – part of the roof fell in!

**CLEMENTHORPE DYE WORKS**

Mr Pulleyn’s Dye Works (1846) – where Roomzzz now is. Not clear how long this lasted, but dyeing was still taking place in the area until the 1860s. The site later became allotments

**ROPE WALK**

A rope walk was generally a long, thin plot of land on which ropes could be manufactured by twisting the groups of fibres round each other. Many of these would have been used on locally built ships.

**OVERVIEW OF THE END OF THE VICTORIAN PERIOD**

Still a wide range of small scale industrial and commercial activity – wood turners, joiners, fitters, gardeners, labourers, tailors, cowkeeper, plumbers.

By 1891

* Skeldergate Bridge opened (1881)
* Navigation Tower demolished
* Bishopgate Street
* Bone Mill -> Chemical Manure Works
* River edge wharf
* Terrys Confectionery where Brewery and Thread Mill had been
* Boatyard/slip still there and continued into the 20C
* NB St Clements Glass Works (medicine bottles)
* Timber yard south of the glass works
* York Confectionery Company – Nunthorpe Peel Works

Directory suggests more people in the area doing industry-related work but still a fair bit of domestic, personal or retail services. There’s an assortment of shops in 1895 (small scale)

Early 20C still a lot of low skilled, low paid workers – but some public servants and tradesmen.

BUT some who lived in the area worked on the railways/in confectionery – else otherwise in shops

**NB PARKSIDE COMMERCIAL CENTRE**

Parkside Commercial Centre was the name given to a development of industrial and warehouse units on land adjoining the current caravan park. It had been acquired by the Council in 1984 to provide low-cost accommodation for small businesses. However, the development had a number of drawbacks and, in 2006, it was agreed to sell the site to developers. The fabric was in poor condition and the site was liable to flood; there was no vehicular access into the buildings.

**22 SKELDERGATE MAP – SOME HISTORY NOTES**

The Skeldergate area was within the Roman civilian settlement and as the west bank of the River Ouse it was always important for trade and industry. It was the principal dockside street of medieval York and this stretch of the river continued to be the main port for sea-going vessels until the 19th century. The riverside was lined with warehouses which stored produce for export, before it was loaded onto boats at Queen's Staith (constructed 1660). Wharves stretched from the river’s edge up to Cromwell Road and Bishophill Senior. At Emperor’s Wharf timber from Nthn Europe and Scotland was landed before being sold to builders, joiners, carpenters and undertakers.

At the end of the 19th century, businesses included an ale and porter merchant, a plaster of Paris manufactory, builder's merchant yard and wine merchants. However, river-borne trade declined due to goods increasingly transported by rail and later road. Many of the warehouses on the riverside and the Skeldergate/Cromwell Road/Fetter Lane triangle were demolished during the second half of the 20th century and replaced with residential blocks - parallels Clementhorpe.

**23 19TH CENTURY WAREHOUSES AND INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS**

Only three historic warehouses remain in this area, Varvill’s Warehouse by Ouse Bridge (1849), Woods Mill (c1875) and the Bonding Warehouse (1872-5). Each warehouse is unique in its design but all incorporate a raised ground floor to take account of the slope of the river bank and the flooding level. All have been converted into new uses. Varvill’s is the narrowest and has been enclosed within a new residential building.

**24 BUCKINGHAM WORKS**

**Clements Hall insert on TF Wood (Albion Wharf)**

For more than a century the Wood family had a business deeply connected to the River Ouse. Richard Wood began in the late 18th century as a timber merchant in Monkgate, later including Albion Wharf on Skeldergate. His son, another Richard married the daughter of his business partner, Leonard Overend. Mary Wood (nee Overend) found herself in the unenviable position of running the business alone, following the premature death of her husband, Richard in 1846. The business expanded under her son T. F. Wood as a timber, slate and wharfage business until the 1950s and the name 'Woodsmill' still stands above Queen's Staith to this day, as do examples of cranes.

1837 A scientific instrument manufacturing business was founded by Thomas Cooke in York. He was a self-taught optical engineer of great ability. Shop at 50 Stonegate

1855 He built his own factory on Bishophill, York, producing a great range of goods from spectacles, telescopes and surveying equipment to sundials, clocks and lathes.

1868 On his death, his sons Thomas and Frederick took over the firm which continued to expand and export goods worldwide, particularly astronomical and surveying equipment. Constructed the largest telescope in the world at that time.

1897 Incorporated as a limited company, and by the turn of the century defence products for the home market had also become an important field.

1914 Engineers, opticians and scientific instrument manufacturers. Specialities: range-finding apparatus, surveying instruments and telescopes. Employees 400

The current building dates from 1916 and has been converted to residential use.

**25 BONDING WAREHOUSE**

In the 19th century there was extensive riverboat passenger traffic from this site (Old Crane Wharf). The Bonding Warehouse was built in 1875 for the storage of dutiable goods when York was still a thriving commercial port. It went on to be used exclusively by Rowntree’s for many years before being converted for restaurant use in the 1970s. Devastating flooding in 2000 saw the building fall into gradual dereliction - a Grade II listed building considered “at risk”. Bought by York-based developer Grantside in 2012, it’s been converted into apartments and offices.

**26 HOTELS**

**LADY ANNE MIDDLETON’S HOTEL**

History

Opened as a hotel in 1973. 56 individual hotel rooms spread across six different buildings — Lady Anne House, Cromwell House, Chaplin House, Sir Joseph Terry Cottages, No.56 Skeldergate and an event space, The Organ Factory — all of them historic Grade II or Grade II\* listed buildings.

Lady Anne House

This Grade II\* listed building takes its name from Dame Anne Middleton, who was the wife of the Sheriff of York in 1659, Peter Middleton, and funded the hospital with an endowment. In 1829, the hospital was rebuilt and extended. By 1972 it was nearly derelict when the owners of 56 Skeldergate stepped in and purchased the building to incorporate into the hotel. Lady Anne House has two floors and 19 rooms, and the glass-roofed quiet lounge, which features original Roman masonry, links the hospital and the Organ Factory event space.

No.56 Skeldergate

Built in the second half of the 18th century. The present building is believed to date back to 1777 to 1779 when it was owned by Ralph Dodsworth, who was the Sheriff of York at that time. Following several changes of hands, In a recent refurbishment there are now six Deluxe rooms, three Executive suites and a lounge that overlooks the Skeldergate House garden.

Cromwell House

Cromwell House dates back to the Industrial Revolution and has two floors that share 16 rooms between them. The house used to be a sawmill and local tradespeople would buy the timber that came in from northern Europe and Scotland and arrived at the banks of the nearby river. Much timber has been rescued to preserve Cromwell House’s original features and create an authentic architectural ambience. One of the walls at the far end of The Sawmill restaurant is actually part of an old city jail. The Sawmill is a key feature of the ground floor.

 Chaplin House

Chaplin House was the home of Hans Hess, a former director of York City Art Gallery and art expert. In the 17th century, it was a townhouse; today, it’s a Grade II listed building with a period staircase that has three floors and nine bedrooms at the top. The late Charlie Chaplin himself stayed here.

Sir Joseph Terry Cottages

The Terry Memorial Homes were designed by the architect Walter G. Penty in 1899.  The heraldic display and buttresses of these Grade II listed homes are of particular note. Public subscriptions to the memory of Sir Joseph Terry, the late industrialist and a former Mayor of York, fund the homes.

The Organ Factory

The Organ Factory is our event space building for weddings, meetings and conferences. The building is Victorian in style and was used by the organ builder Walter Hopkins until he retired in 1921. The Organ Factory is Grade II listed and was converted in the 1990s.

**ROOMZZZ**

Roomzzz York Aparthotel has 97 apartments across four storeys, including a penthouse. Many rooms have balconies or floor-to-ceiling windows, with views over the River Ouse and Rowntree Park. The £20 million riverside development in Terry Avenue also offers guests use of the hotel gym, a lounge and deli which is open to the public.

**28 FURTHER INFORMATION**

* History Group weblink:

<http://www.clementshallhistorygroup.org.uk/projects/clementhorpe-200-years-of-work-and-industry/>

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