

WOLVERTON'S EARLY POPULATION - SETTLING AND KEEPING THE WORK FORCE

1841-1861	<p>The industrial population moved from town to town according to job prospects. Wolverton attracted men from all over G.B. Notably from London, Lancashire, Scotland and the local agricultural counties. Some men were first generation off the land. Many had worked in several industrial centres before W.</p> <p>Some navvies stayed on to build the work shops.</p> <p>Due to the lack of suitable accommodation the men came at first without their families.</p> <p>The largely all male population led to unruliness. Drinking in local pubs was heavy - Stony Stratford. Radcliffe Arms got the name of 'Hell's Kitchen'.</p>	<p>Census extracts from MC (Moir Courtland)</p> <p>H.S.Brown Autobiography</p>
1838	Drunken man found dead on line.	M. 29.Sept.

cont.

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1838 29.Nov.	Bury's plan for cottages at W. receives consideration.	letter from Creed
1839	<p>Bury complains bitterly about the lack of accommodation for families and the difficulties of keeping skilled men at the works.</p> <p>An apprenticeship is started for young men so that the works can be manned by local men.</p> <p>By and large the works does not employ craftsmen skilled in agricultural crafts.</p>	<p>Letter from Bury 30.Dec.</p> <p>MC. 2nd.</p> <p>MC. 2nd.</p>
1838-1843	<p>The men receive 'papers' to allow them to travel home free of charge at weekends. Also allow mothers and sisters to come to W. For confinements etc.</p> <p>Number of papers sought considerably reduced by 1843.</p>	<p>Letter from Bury 28.April 1843</p>
1841	List of all dwellings at W. With brief description and rental.	BTH records

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| 1841 | Reading room, school and gardens soon established. | " |
| 1839- | Methodists begin house groups. Petition for room in which to hold services. Set up in an unused shed at the works. | PR 2nd. Gives. Ref. |
| 1846 | The works and the community is overcrowded.

Radcliffe trustees approached for more land. | |