

## **Domestic woollen industry**

(Refs Tupling 165-89 unless otherwise stated)

C13

Rochdale already emerged as an established centre for wool trading

C17

Emergence of sheep (c.f. cattle) farming, probably to supplement income from small farms. Reference to sheep gates in court rolls.

Mainly kerseys (wool fabric), bays (worsted warp and woollen weft, light) and friezes (heavy fabric with raised and curled nap)

Carding and spinning done by women and children >5. Five people needed to spin sufficient for one loom.

Seizing and weaving done by men

Fulling and finishing done in Rochdale until C18.

Emergence of clothiers, ie men who oversaw the entire sequence from wool purchase to weaving then selling on for fulling. Often small scale.

Also emergence of chapmen or middlemen who arranged the supply of raw wool and the removal of finished wool.

The system was often credit based and insecure.

C18

Enlarging scale of production

Increased specialisation of the processes, including equipment manufacture and all stages up to felting

Reduced dependence on Rochdale as a trade centre

occupations given in parish registers of Newchurch, 1705:

| <u>WOOL</u> |           |                      | <u>AGRICULTURE</u> |                     |       |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------|
| weavers     | clothiers | carders/<br>spinners | yeomen             | labs/<br>husbandmen | other |
| 75          | -         | 2                    | 11                 | 6                   | 8     |

(But not all entries record occupation)

Local residents involved in the wool trade included Mucky Earth, Heightside, Waingate, Chapel Hill and 3 at Newchurch

1735

Flying shuttle demonstrated in Rossendale by John Kay, who later sued for breach of patent.

1746

Wednesday market established by baymakers in Newchurch.

By 1792 George Ormerod of Cloughfold and two others from Rossendale subscribed to the new wool hall at Rochdale.

Emergence of woolstaplers, who bought, sorted and distributed fleeces.