

Hoes for 'spuddling' teasles



Hoes for 'spuddling' or weeding the growing teasle crop.
Brunt family, Somerset.
(Robert McMillan, August 1973)

Cutting teazles, Somerset, 1973



Cutters amongst the teazles, some of which still carry the circle of small blossoms, and are not yet ready for cutting.



The short teazle knife used for cutting is concealed by the glove protecting the cutter's hand.
Brunt family, Somerset
(Robert McMillan, August 1973)

Cutters at work



Cutters at work amongst the teasles against a backdrop of woodland. In 1973, only one other grower in Somerset, Doug Maddick of the Foxhound, Fivehead, was cutting teasles, also for Edmund Taylor (Teazle) Ltd. of Huddersfield



The short curved blade of the teasle knife dangling from the right wrist can be seen below the bunch. Some knives were home-made, but the Sheffield-made 'Eye-Witness' teasle knife was also well known in Somerset. Brunt family, Somerset (Robert McMillan, August 1973)

Bunch of forty teazles



The last teazle in the handful or bunch was cut with an extra long stem which was pushed through and then wrapped round and hitched to hold the teazles together. The outline of the teazle knife with its stubby wooden handle and curved blade can be seen below the right hand.
Brunt family, Somerset
(Robert McMillan, August 1973)



Securing the handful or bunch



A characteristic handful or bunch of teasels of various sizes. In the Yorkshire growing trade up to World War I, teasels were also cut in bunches.
Brunt family, Somerset
(Robert McMillan, August 1973)

Attaching bunches for drying



Putting the bunches onto a pole ready for drying. A 6" nail was put through the bottom of the pole to stop the bunches sliding off and to leave a space for the air to circulate.

Brunt family, Somerset
(Robert McMillan, August 1973)





Attaching the final bunches
to a pole

The final bunches going onto
the pole.
Brunt family, Somerset
(Robert McMillan, August
1973)

Carrying the pole to the shelter of a tree to dry off



Teazles on a pole propped up under a tree. When dry enough, these teazle bunches were packed into sheets and sent to Edmund Taylor (Teazle) Ltd. in Huddersfield to be dried off completely at Chardon Mill. Brunt family, Somerset (Robert McMillan, August 1973)

Somerset stav of 500 and maker-up



A stav with twenty layers of teazles, each layer made up of a fan of twenty-five teazles. As well as the long apron the man wears a covering on his coat sleeve to prevent the teazles catching as he held the teazles in place with his forearm when tying them into a fan or glen. Forty of these stavs made up the numerical count of the West pack of 20,000
(Rowe, *JBWSCS*)

'The Teasel Field'



'The Teasel Field', by George Walker, with the parish church of All Saints, Sherburn in Elmet on its hill at the back, condenses the Yorkshire growing trade into a single scene. At the rear, a labourer 'spittles' or weeds a field of first year teasle plants with a wooden spade shod with metal. Along the right-hand side of the 'ellum', or temporary drying shed, stands a final row of the poles with the cutters' bunches drying on them though the autumn months. The work of the women, however, in clipping the teasles and making up the stavs, was done indoors, in the winter. One stav is shown in the process of being made up, and the boy is seen holding a completed stav. Some of the detail is a little bit loose. From Edward Hailstone's 1885 edition of Walker, 1814. (Reproduced by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of York)

Teazle ellow and cutters, Steeton Hall, South Milford, c. 1907



In 1889, a note in a Leeds newspaper ran, 'Anyone travelling to York or Hull will have noticed teazle fields with their inevitable little sheds on the vale of York about Sherburn and Milford.' Lying in the foreground here are the poles for the cutters' bunches, to be stood up inside the ellow to dry through the autumn. Another ellow, still empty, stands amongst the uncut teazles at the rear.

(Mr. R. Newsome, South Milford, who is the small boy, second from the left.)

The glen of teasles of the Yorkshire growing trade



The impressed design shows the arrangement of six larger and four smaller teasles, along with a motto supplied by Hailstone. Thirty glens made up the Yorkshire stav of 300.
(Reproduced by kind permission of the Dean and Chapter of York)

A reconstructed Yorkshire stav



Because of the arrangements of the teasles in the glen, the Yorkshire stav had deeply ribbed sides, and it was smaller than the West of England stav. Forty-five of these made the count of 13,500 in the Yorkshire pack.
(Tolson Memorial Museum, Huddersfield)

Former teazle barn, South Milford



Former barn, South Milford, used before World War I for storing teazles.
(Robert McMillan, 2009)

The Parish Church of All Saints, Sherburn in Elmet, Yorkshire



The church at Sherburn in Elmet with its distinctive tower buttress, seen in Walker's 'The Teasel Field'. In the foreground around the obelisk are graves of the Hey family, active in the teasle trade locally during the nineteenth century, and the graves or memorials of other Sherburn teasle growers and dealers are nearby.
(Robert McMillan, 2011)



Gravestone of Thomas Lynch, All Saints, Sherburn

Thomas Lynch, who died in 1832 aged 41, was probably the Thomas Lynch jun of Low Street, Sherburn, noted in 1828 and 1830 as a teazle dealer.

Charles Clayforth memorial, Sherburn



Buried at Boston Spa in 1902 after a long life, Charles Clayforth was a teazle dealer through at least four decades of the nineteenth century. (Robert McMillan, 2011)

Batman graves, Parish Church of St Mary, South Milford



William Batman



John Batman

William Batman, who died in 1853 aged eighty-three, and John Batman who died in 1887 aged eighty-five, were probably the South Milford farmers who also grew and dealt in teazles around the late 1830s. In 1864, a William Batman, pretty certainly of this same South Milford family sold Yorkshire teazles to the Church Fenton teazle dealer William Bean. (Robert McMillan, 2009)

The teazle market at the Leeds inns

Leeds in 1727



Cossins' plan of Leeds, 1727, with boats below Leeds bridge on the Aire & Calder Navigation, which enabled West of England teazles to arrive in the heart of Leeds by water. The main centre was around Briggate, where the cloth markets were held, and where according to Defoe in the 1720s, the inns alongside had an auxiliary role in the operation of the markets. The evidence suggests that the teazle dealers who came to Leeds with their teazles from the West of England at the time used inns as their business venues whilst in the town.

(Cossins' Plan of Leeds, 1727, *Kirkgate Market*)

Former warehouse, 1770s, Simpson's Fold, Leeds



Facilities such as this erected alongside the Aire & Calder assisted the trade in West of England teazles coming into Leeds by water. Between 1800 and 1807, Samuel Coates, the first known teazle dealer in Leeds itself, moved his warehousing from Lands Lane to Simpson's Fold, perhaps into this same building, undoubtedly so as to handle West of England teazles.
(Robert McMillan, 2011)

The Aire & Calder Navigation Dock, Leeds, 1818



This basin provided a further focus in Leeds for the incoming trade in teazles from the West of England, with warehousing at Simpson's Fold, Dock Street, the Dock Side, and other nearby localities on either side of the Aire.
(Kathleen Kearney, 2009)

The Aire & Calder Navigation, Leeds, 1829



The Aire & Calder Navigation, Leeds, 1829, with Leeds bridge, and on the north bank the new warehousing erected in 1827-28. This shows the general scene at a time when boats were bringing in immense quantities of West of England teazles.
(Hadfield, *Canals of Yorkshire and North East England*, 1)

West of England and Yorkshire teazle dealers at the Leeds inns



In the second half of the 1820s, the West of England teazle dealers adopted the New Cross Inn on Meadow Lane, south-west of Leeds bridge, as their base, near the docks and also storage at the South Market. By contrast, dealers from the Yorkshire growing area frequented inns in the vicinity of Briggate and Vicar Lane, several of them in the numerous long yards seen here.

(Fowler's Plan of Leeds, 1821, *Kirkgate Market*)

TEASEL DEALERS.

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m Rawsley John, 7	m Starkey George, 35	m Wilkinson Joseph, 7
m Slater James, 35	m Teale George, 44	m Wormald John, 7
m Slater Jeremiah, 7	m Teale George, 7	m Yeadon James, 35
m Slater John, 1	m Teale Joseph, 7	m Yeadon John, 42
m Slater John, 16	m Teale Wm. 44	m Yeadon Joseph, 42
m Slater Royston, 7	m Thompson John, 42	m Yeadon Samuel, 35
m Smith Wm. 1	m Thompson Thomas	m Yeadon Wm. 1
m Smith Wm. 1	m Waite Jonathan, jun.	

TEASEL DEALERS.

*1 attends the Black Bull, 2 Boot and Shoe, 3 London Tavern, 4 Spotted Cow, 5 New Inn, and 6 New Cross Inn.

6 Acker Robert and Wm. Somersetshire	4 Gill John, Sherburn
4 Ainsworth Joseph, Barkston	4 Granger George, South Milford
2 Ambler Joseph, Sherburn	4 Hanley John, Barkston
2 Appleyard John, Wiston Lordship	6 Hennings David, Somersetshire
2 Appleyard Thomas, Wiston Lordship	6 Hennings James, Somersetshire
1 Baker Jep. South Milford	4 Liddle Richard, Barkston
4 Baker John, Biggin	6 Limscom Joseph, Somersetshire
4 Barker George, Lumby	4 Midgeley John, Collingham
4 Beck Wm. Sherburn	6 Morris Edmond, Gloucestershire
6 Bees James Somersetshire	4 Osburn Wm. Micklefield
4 Blackburn Benjamin, South Milford	6 Paynes Edward, Somersetshire
6 Bowles Thomas & Joseph, Somersetshire	3 Pearson Richard, Halton
6 Bradford John and James, Somersetshire	6 Plumber Charles, Milford
6 Bristo Thomas and John, Somersetshire	6 Pover Wm. Gloucestershire
6 Brock Robert, Somersetshire	6 Rich Isaac, Gloucester
6 Brown Wm. Somersetshire	1 Rollinson John, Purston Jaglin, near Pontefract
4 Burtoft George, South Milford	6 Sallad Wm. Somersetshire
5 Burtoft Thomas, South Milford	4 Stannidge Thomas, Sherburn
6 Carey John, Somersetshire	2 Thompson J. Wistow
6 Challenger George, Somersetshire	2 Tomlinson Thomas, Biggin
6 Collings John and Joseph, Somersetshire	4 Walnwright Miles, South Milford
6 Cotton Robert, Somersetshire	6 Wagg Michael, Somersetshire
6 Cook Benjamin, Somersetshire	4 Waterhouse Wm. Sherburn
6 Cook Nathl. Somersetshire	6 Weaver John, Somersetshire
4 Denham George, New Wortley	4 Wheeler Wm. Micklefield
6 Derrick Wm. Somersetshire	3 Wilson Richard, Thorp
6 Derbin Job, Somersetshire	6 Winter John, Somersetshire
6 Dowling John, Somersetshire	4 Wood John, South Milford
6 Duddings Wm. Somersetshire	2 Yeadon Benjamin, Stream farm
6 Edgell George, Somersetshire	6 Young James, Somersetshire
6 Gardener Wm. Somersetshire	
2 Gldersom John, near Biggin	

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In 1830, 1834, and 1839, lists of teazle dealers expected to attend at the inns were printed in special sections in the Leeds directories. Shorter notices about the business at the inns continued in the directories up to 1847.
(Leeds Library and Information Service / *General and Commercial Directory of the Borough of Leeds*, 1834)

The New Cross Inn, Meadow Lane, Leeds



The New Cross Inn occupied the block to the right. Opened about 1826, it formed part of the South Market project, and almost immediately became the base of the West of England teazle dealers, being near the navigation dock, and also perhaps because the market offered storage. Renamed the South Market Hotel in the 1870s, photographed in 1900. (Leeds Library and Information Service)

The London Tavern in the Free Market, Leeds



The London Tavern was one of the inns in the commercial centre frequented by teazle dealers from the Yorkshire growing villages. In 1830, three Worcestershire dealers were also there. (Leeds Library and Information Service)

The Angel Inn, Briggate, Leeds



Here seen within the yard, inside the entry from Briggate. In 1830, four South Milford teazle dealers waited on customers at the Angel.



The entrance to the Angel Inn

In the yard looking towards Briggate, with the doorway on the right. The Angel is one of three still surviving Leeds inns known to have been used by visiting Yorkshire dealers. (Robert McMillan)



Angel Inn Yard, left, Lands Lane, 1898

Lands Lane, where the Angel Inn Yard on the left, comes out, was itself a location for teazle dealers and merchants in the nineteenth century. (Leeds Library and Information Service)

The Angel Inn Yard from Lands Lane



Thought to be of late eighteenth century date, and altered in the late nineteenth, the Angel closed as an inn in 1903, but reopened again in 2000. Older photographs of the inn are on the Leeds website. (Robert McMillan, 2011)

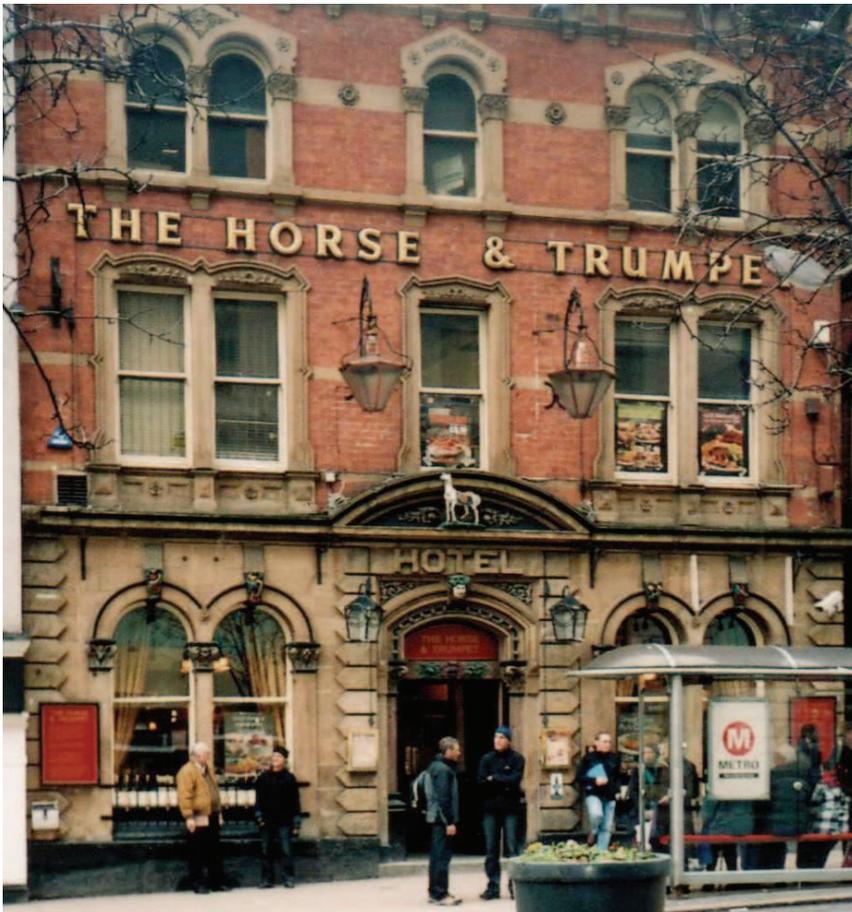


The Ship, Briggate, Leeds

The Ship was one of a number of inns around Briggate and Vicar Lane where teazle growers and dealers from the Yorkshire growing villages attended on buyers in Leeds up to the middle of the nineteenth century. (Robert McMillan, 2011)



The entry led to the historic yard where at the inn in 1830 Jonathan Wilson of Sherburn and Jonathan Walton of Lumby waited on trade. (Robert McMillan, 2009)



The Horse and Trumpet,
the Headrow, Leeds



The Horse and Trumpet, the
Headrow, Leeds, where in 1830
two Sherburn teazle dealers,
William Blackburn and George
Fleetham, waited on buyers.
This is the third of the surviving
Leeds inns known to have been
used by teazle growers and
dealers from the Yorkshire
growing places. The current
frontage is Victorian.
(Kathleen Kearney, 2010 /
Robert McMillan, 2011)

Boot and Shoe, Wood Street, Leeds



The Boot and Shoe, the sign of which can be seen along on the left, was the resort in 1834 of seven Yorkshire teazle dealers. Taken c. 1897, looking towards the Vicar Lane end. (Leeds Library and Information Service)

The Boot and Shoe, c. 1898



In the 1830s, George Denhom or Dunwell, a former landlord of the Boot and Shoe, where Yorkshire teazle dealers waited on buyers, himself became a teazle dealer, based at New Wortley, Leeds. In 1834, he was to be found at the Spotted Cow on Vicar Lane, along with dealers from the Yorkshire growing villages, waiting for customers. (Leeds Library and Information Service)

Grave of William Bean, teazle dealer, St Mary the Virgin, Kirk Fenton, Yorkshire.



William Bean, a farmer of Church Fenton, Yorkshire, sold Yorkshire, West of England and German teazles to Leeds woollen mills between 1859 and 1867. He died in 1874 and was buried at St Mary the Virgin, Kirk Fenton, alongside his wife, Martha, who predeceased him. (Robert McMillan, 2009)

The Leeds teazle merchants

Wine Street on the right,
off Infirmary Street, Leeds



William Cornock, who was selling teazles by 1842, can be regarded as the first of the Leeds teazle merchants. By 1849, his business had moved to 2 Wine Street, just beyond the Cloth Hall Hotel in this later nineteenth century photograph by Alf Mattison of Hunslet. Cornock and his wife Eliza also lived on the premises. (Leeds Library and Information Service)

Cornock advertisement of 1851

**W. CORNOCK AND SON,
TEAZLE DEALERS,
2, WINE STREET, LEEDS.**

N.B. Consumers will find a large stock of Teazles
always on hand.

In the 1840s, William Cornock's son Thomas Bruce set himself up as a teazle dealer independently, but in 1850-51, he rejoined his father's business at 2 Wine Street. (Leeds Library and Information Service / [Slade and Roebuck's Leeds Directory, 1851])