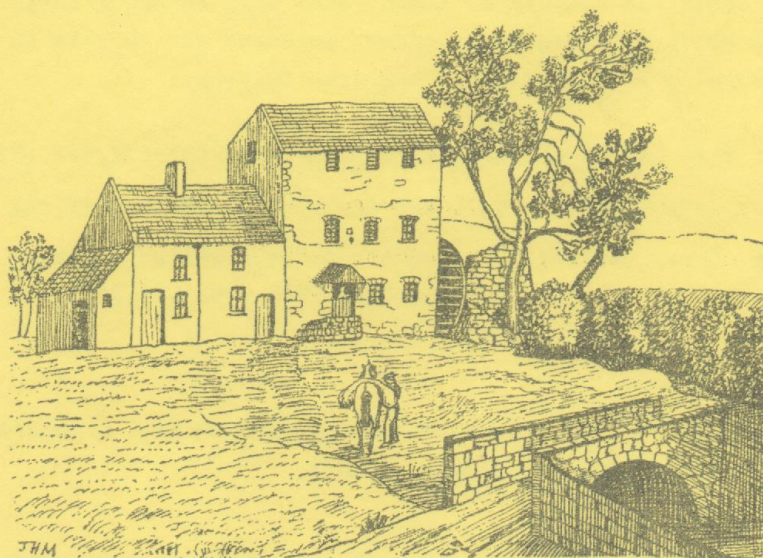


# ROATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

VOL. 1, No. 6, APRIL 1984

## Project Newsletter



ROATH MILL.

The ROATH LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY was formed in November 1978. Its objects include collecting, interpreting and disseminating information about the old ecclesiastical parish of Roath, which covered an area which includes not only the present district of Roath but also Splott, Pengam, Tremorfa, Adamsdown, Pen-y-lan and parts of Cathays and Cyncoed.

Meetings are held every Thursday during school term at 7.15 p.m. at Albany Road Junior School, Albany Road, Cardiff.

The Society works in association with the Extra-mural Department of the University College, Cardiff who organise an annual series of lectures (Fee:£8.50) during the Autumn term at Albany Road School also on Thursday evenings. Students enrolling for the course of ten Extra-mural lectures may join the Society at a reduced fee of £3 for the period 1 January to 30 September 1984.

The ordinary membership subscription for the whole year (1 October to 30 September 1984) is £5.

Members receive free "Project Newsletters" containing results of research as well as snippets of interest to all who wish to find out more about the history of Roath. They have an opportunity to assist in group projects under expert guidance and to join in guided tours to places of local historic interest.

Chairman: Alec Keir, [REDACTED]

Secretary: Jeff Childs, [REDACTED]

Treasurer: Gerry Penfold, [REDACTED]

\* CHANGE OF VENUE - From May onwards meetings will be held at Howardian High School, Colchester Avenue, Cardiff,

The illustration on front cover is reproduced from a sketch by John Hobson Matthews p.105 Vol.111 of Records of the County Borough of Cardiff.

## WHAT WE LEARN FROM CENSUS RETURNS

### PART 1: ROATH 1851

#### Background to the Census

Although as early as 1753 an attempt was made to introduce regular censuses of the population there was considerable opposition to the proposals, which served to delay their implementation for nearly 50 years.

The first census took place in 1801 and thereafter a census has been conducted at intervals of ten years with the exception of 1941. The records of the 1931 census were destroyed as the result of enemy action, during the Second World War. The first four censuses (1801 to 1831 inclusive) were no more than a numerical return of the number of houses and male and female inhabitants in each parish, township etc, and enabled the government of the day to ascertain the size and growth ( or decline) of the population at both local and national level.

From 1841 the censuses have been carried out by the office of the Registrar General and from which date each householder has been required to complete a schedule listing certain particulars concerning the occupants of his/her property on a given night. As the nineteenth century progressed, the activities of central government became more complex with the result that it was necessary to pose detailed questions in the censuses in order to establish population movement, determine the extent and nature of human resources and assess the need to provide public facilities.

In the case of the censuses currently open for inspection the details recorded in the schedules collected by each census enumerator were copied into printed books and it was from these books, covering the entire population, that the Registrar General collated and published summary statistics from which I will later quote. Although the householders' schedules were purposefully destroyed, the enumerators books are available for examination (on microfilm) at the Public Record Office, Land Registry Building, Portugal Street, London W.C.2, one hundred years after the census to which they relate; thus those in respect of the censuses of 1841 to 1881 inclusive are open to public scrutiny.

Many County Record Offices and libraries have acquired copies of the microfilms covering the area they serve and this is true of the Glamorgan Record Office, the Library of University College, Cardiff and the Cardiff Central Library. Several years ago the Roath Local History Society obtained Xerox prints taken from the microfilms of that part of the 1851 and 1861 censuses relating to the parish of Roath and last year the Society acquired Xerox copies taken from the 1871 Census.

The census conducted 7 June 1841 was not as informative as those for 1851 to 1881 inclusive, because:

- (1) very few streets were numbered.
- (2) relationships to head of household were not stated.
- (3) matrimonial status was not given.

(4) ages of persons over 15 years were rounded down to the nearest five years and the ages of those over 60 years were often rounded down to the nearest 10 years, and

(5) birthplace was simply indicated by "Yes" if born in the same county; "No" if born elsewhere in England or Wales, while those born in Scotland, Ireland, etc., were described as such.

The information provided in the censuses taken 30 March 1851, 7 April 1861, 2 April 1871 and 3 April 1881 may be summarised thus:-

(1) Name of place enumerated and whether hamlet, village, town or borough.

(2) Number or name of house and its street or road

(3) Names of persons present on census night

(4) Relationship of each person to head of household

(5) Matrimonial status

(6) Age and sex

(7) Rank, profession or occupation

(8) Birthplace (England and Wales by place and county, but generally country only for those born elsewhere).

(9) Whether blind, deaf or dumb (1871 and 1881 censuses included whether an imbecile, idiot or lunatic).

### The Project

It has long been recognised that the censuses taken in the nineteenth century provide a unique insight into the nature and composition of Victorian society. With this in mind, the Roath L.H.S. during winter 1982 and spring 1983 devoted its weekly project meetings to a detailed extraction and analysis of the 1851 and 1861 census material for the parish of Roath. The remainder of this article is devoted principally to the Society's findings in relation to the 1851 census, while a future article will deal with the 1861 census. The 1871 census is being analysed at our current project meetings and the findings will be presented at a later date. The 1841 census is too small to justify group project work but the Editor has included some notes in this issue.

One of the Society's objectives is to present through the medium of its Project Newsletters a description of the changing face of Roath over the thirty year period 1841 to 1871 by particular examination of the following aspects:-

(1) growth of population.

(2) housing development

(3) occupation structure

(4) places of birth

(5) age and sex structure

### Growth of Population in Roath

Summary statistics of the first eleven censuses.

Year	Population	Percentage increase or decrease on previous census
1801	236	
1811	211	-10.6
1821	269	+27.5
1831	272	+1.1
1841	298	9.6
1851	292*	-2
1861	3044	+942.5
1871	7986	+162.4
1881	23096	+189.2
1891	39657	+71.7
1901	61074	+54.0

\* excludes 102 military and their families residing in Longcross Barracks and takes account of the fact that in his summary the enumerator overstated the population of the parish by 20 persons.

Using the summary statistics, it is possible to discern the imbalance in the population between males and females, thus:-

Year	Males	Females	Total	Excess males over females	Excess females over males
1801	103	133	236	-	30
1811	92	119	211	-	27
1821	125	144	269	-	19
1831	130	142	272	-	12
1841	159	139	298	20	-
1851	134	158	292	-	24

Why the 1841 Census should show an excess of males over females whereas in every other census to 1851 there was an excess of females over males is uncertain. Possibly Roath had recovered from the known depressed state of agriculture in the 1830's with a resultant surge of labourers into the parish.

The fluctuations in the level of Roath's population between 1801 and 1851 pales into insignificance compared with the increase which took place in the period 1851 to 1861 and continued to the turn of the century.

The Society, as a primary objective, paid particular attention to the censuses of 1851 and 1861 as the first provides a view of Roath immediately prior to the initial impact of urbanisation while the second provides a view of the parish within a few years of the establishment of an urbanised community in that part of Roath between

(1) City Road (then Plwcca Lane) and Oakfield Street, and

(2) Cardiff Royal Infirmary (site of Longcross Barracks) and Constellation Street.

The 1871 census, which is still being analysed, is likely to reflect the virtual obliteration of Roath's identity as an agrarian community.

### Housing Development

In 1851 the Parish of Roath comprised a single registration district, the enumerator being one Thomas Evans.

The only named road in the parish was Plwcca Lane (spelt 'Pluca" by the enumerator), which comprised six houses plus one under construction. These houses were occupied by the following employed persons :-

Name		Age	Occupation
John	Francis	32	Coal heaver
William	Price	18	Boatman
Patrick	Dugan	19	Boatman
Edward	Davies	28	Painter
Thomas	Lewis	39	Coal heaver
Elizabeth	Lewis	41	Laundress
Jane	Llewellyn	19	Laundress
William H	Woodham	23	Gardener
William	Porter	37	Agric.labourer
Richard	Cook	27	Agric.labourer
William	Provin	17	Agric.labourer
William	Evans	54	Thatcher
Joseph	Gibbs	40	Soldier
Ann Mary	Gibbs	22	Dressmaker
William	Wortley	60	Agric.labourer
William	Wortley	20	Waggoner
Edward	Wortley	17	Agric.labourer
James	Taylor	26	Soldier
Thomas	Smith	28	Agric.labourer

Six houses were described as comprising the "village" which I take to mean the cluster of small houses around Roath Church. These houses were occupied by the following employed persons:-

Name		Age	Occupation
David	Jones	40	Gardener
Mary	Harris	40	House maid
Catherine	Howells	41	Cook
William	Llewellyn	38	Blacksmith (employing 2 men)
Catherine	Catway	15	Apprentice Milliner
Mary	Bentley	28	General Servant
Samuel	Brooks	22	Journeyman Blacksmith
Lewis	Llewellyn	14	Apprentice Blacksmith
James	Charles	40	Thrasher
James	Charles	18	Waggoner
Morgan	David	55	Agric.labourer
Thomas	David	23	Haycutter
William	Harris	35	Waggoner

The predominant property in the "village" was "Village House", the chief occupant being Sarah Williams, a 68 year old widow, described as a Gentlewoman Annuitant and to whom the aforementioned David Jones, Mary Harris and Catherine Howells were servants.

The following properties (together with their chief occupiers) were also named in the census:-

<b>Property</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
Mill House	Edward Phillips	27	Shepherd
Lower Splott	1. David Thomas	42	Cowman
(2 separate properties)	2. John Fisher	56	Shepherd
Little Deedger	William Richard	61	Gardener
Cythma	David James	30	Ag.labr.
Ty y Cue	Richard Lewis	53	Ag.labr.
Red House	1. John Leary	24	Freestone Sawyer
(6 separate tenements)	2. Edward Thomsa	40	Ag.labr.
	3. Thomas John	69	Army Pensioner
	4. Henry Oram	30	Cordwainer (employing 2 men)
	5. William Crocker	30	Journeyman Mason
	6. Anne Gale	51	Pauper
Four Elms	1. John Harding	61	Gardener
(4 separate properties)	2. Thomas Jones	27	Waggoner
	3. Christopher Douglas	28	Clerk (Taff Vale Railway Co.)
	4. Susan Routly	49	Accountant 's wife
Ty Draw	1. Charles Vincent	26	Thrasher
(2 separate properties)	2. Mary Rowland	33	Pauper
Ty-y-Colly	Charles Hill	70	Army Pensioner
Pen-y-Lan	1. Noah Bowen	30	Ag.labr.
(2 separate properties)	2. William Davies	60	Cordwainer
School House	Mary Ann Davies	25	School Mistress
Mud House	John England	30	Rail Labourer
Castle Lodge	Michael Kenefick	46	Clerk (to G.W.C.Jackson of Roath Castle)

#### Houses of Minor Gentry

<b>Property</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>
Adams Down	Whitlock Nicholl	68	Magistrate and Distributor of Stamps for County of Glamorgan
Roath Castle	George William Collins Jackson	30	Army Captain
Roath Court	Charles Crofts Williams	52	Magistrate and Alderman of Cardiff



Farms:

Property	Name	Age	Occupation
Great Barn	Thomas Evans	24	Farmer (20 acres)
Splott Farm	Edward Williams	18	Farmer's son (231 acres upland & 239 acres moor employing 10 men)
Pengam	John Evans	29	Farmer (100 acres upland & 80 acres moor-employing 8 men)
White House	Llewellyn Morgan	57	Farmer (110 acres- employing 4 men)
Lower Llwyn-y-Grant	John Thomas	34	Farmer (125 acres- employing 3 men)
Ty-y-coed (sic)	Henry Griffin	45	Farmer (97 acres - employing 2 men and 2 boys)
Adams Down	Mary Roberts	63	Farmer 's wife (220 acres upland 46 acres moor)
Un-named (but identifiable as "Deri Farm')	Ann Richards	55	Farmer (40 acres - employing 1 man)
Great House	William Evans	59	Farmer (303 acres arable & 129 acres moor-employing 14 men and 2 women)

Roath Mill is not specifically mentioned in the enumerator's book although William Morgan, a 27 year old miller resided within the parish.

In total, there were 65 inhabited houses plus 2 under construction and none were unoccupied. An average of 4.5 persons occupied each inhabited house (the figure for Cardiff in the same year was 7.2).

The largest household in the parish was that of John Evans, farmer of Pengam and consisted of 13. persons (himself, his wife, 2 children, sister-in-law, 2 house servants, a nurse and 5 farm labourers).

The largest employer appears to have been William Evans of the Great House, who, as indicated above engaged the services of 16 people.

Also situated within the parish was the Longcross Barracks which stood on part of the site of the present Cardiff Royal Infirmary. On 30 March 1851 the Barracks were occupied by 102 persons (79 soldiers, 2 Chelsea pensioners, 11 soldiers' wives, and 10 soldiers' children). Of the 79 soldiers (1 lieutenant, 5 sergeants, 5 corporals, 67 privates and 1 drummer) no less than 54 were born in Ireland, 23 in England and only 2 in Wales (not Glamorgan). None of the soldiers' wives were born in Wales and only 2 soldiers' children were born in Roath. The afore-mentioned children were one month old while another 4 children between the ages of 1 and 3 years were born either in Portsmouth or Newport, Isle of Wight, suggesting that the military had been brought into the parish only very recently and may have been transferred from the Portsmouth area.

The population of the Barracks has been discounted from the statistics presented in this paper since it was an artificially created community within the parish and its inclusion would tend to distort the analysis.

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#### EDITORIAL NOTES

Project Newsletters Nos.1,2 & 3 are out of print but arrangements are in hand to obtain photocopies for those of our new members who have paid the full annual subscription for 1983/4 and to satisfy demand from non-members for back numbers. It may take a few weeks before the out-of-print back numbers are available but they will be despatched as soon as possible.

\* \* \* \*

Philip Riden in his kind review of our Newsletters in the March issue of the South East Wales Local History Newsletter is wide of the mark in his speculation on how our own newsletters are printed. Here is the secret:

A B.B.C. Micro-computer Model B fitted with the "Wordwise" (Computer Concepts) word processor and linked to a BMC black/green monitor is used. I laboriously 'poke type" the copy which is saved on disc and later laid out (i.e. "sub-edited") by my son, Robin Keir of SIR Computers Ltd. ■

An Acorn LVL dual 100 K disc drive and the JUKI 6100 Daisywheel printer for storing data and printing the text on A4 paper is used.

All the equipment and advice on its use is available from SIR Computers Ltd. (Tel. Cardiff ■)

\* \* \* \*

## OCCUPATION STRUCTURE

I have already mentioned the occupations of some of the residents of Roath Parish and now set out below a complete list of all the trades, professions and occupations mentioned in the 1851 census:-

- Agricultural labourer (incl. cowman, haycutter, herdsman, thrasher & waggoner)
- Army
- Bailiff
- Blacksmith (incl. apprentice & journeyman)
- Boatman
- Butcher
- Clerk
- Coachman
- Coal heaver
- Cook
- Cordwainer (incl. apprentice & journeyman)
- Dairy-maid
- Dressmaker
- Farmer
- Freestone sawyer
- Gardener
- Groom
- Haulier
- Housekeeper
- Jeweller
- Laundress
- Magistrate
- Mason (journeyman )
- Milkman
- Milkwoman
- Miller
- Milliner (apprentice)
- Nurse
- Painter
- Rail labourer
- School mistress
- Servant (incl. general servant, domestic servant, house servant and housemaid)
- Shepherd
- Ship's carpenter
- Tea man
- Thatcher
- Usher (Free School )

Notes:

Coal heaver was a dock labourer employed in loading coal.

Cordwainer at this date would have been a shoemaker.

Freestone sawyer was employed in cutting freestone for window sills etc.

Tea man must have been a tea dealer.

Although there are many ways in which occupations may be classified, we have used the broad headings devised by P.M.Tillott in his "Collections for the History of Tickhill", University of Sheffield Department of Adult Education, 1967.

This analysis together with that of the productive and non-productive population is as follows:-

	No. of persons	Percentage
Working population	148	50.3
Visitors	1	0.3
Wives resident with husbands and having no occupation	39	13.3
Adults (21 years+) having no occupation	23	7.9
Children having no occupation	81	27.6
Independents	2	0.6
<b>Total population</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>100</b>

	No. of persons	Percentage
Farmers	9	6.2
Agric. Workers	50	34.2
Tradesmen	11	7.5
Craftsmen	13	8.9
Professions	7	4.8
Clerical	2	1.4
Servants	47	32.2
Labourers	5	3.4
Railway	2	1.4
<b>Total working population</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100</b>

It will be noted that just over one half of Roath's population was following same occupation (although it is probable that a number of wives, against whom the enumerator recorded no employment, were in fact assisting in their husband's trade). Of the working population, nearly 40% were engaged in agriculture and most, if not all, would have worked on the small number of farms located within the parish. The only other sizeable group is servants (general, domestic & house servants, coachmen, cooks, grooms, housekeepers, housemaids, and nurses), the majority of whom resided in the houses of their employers. Within this group I have placed daughters employed at home.

## PLACES OF BIRTH

As the basis of a future attempt to discern population movements over the 20 year period 1851 to 1871, an analysis by place of birth is set out below:-

<b>No.of persons</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	
83	28.4	Roath
32	11	Cardiff
74	25.3	Remainder of Glamorgan
<b>189</b>	<b>64.7</b>	<b>Total for Glamorgan</b>
31	10.6	Monmouthshire
1	-	Breconshire
2	-	Carmarthenshire
7	-	Montgomeryshire
<b>10</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>Total for remainder of Wales</b>
6	-	Devonshire
1	-	Essex
9	-	Gloucestershire (Incl.4 Bristol )
1	-	Hampshire
2	-	Herefordshire
1	-	Lancashire
2	-	London
1	-	Norfolk
1	-	Northamptonshire
12	-	Somersetshire
1	-	Surrey
1	-	Sussex
1	-	Warwickshire
15	-	Wiltshire
2	-	Yorkshire
<b>56</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>Total for English Counties</b>
4	-	Ireland
2	-	Foreign Countries
<b>6</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>Total for Foreign Countries</b>
<b>292</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>

At Appendix 1. I have analysed the places of birth within Glamorganshire (excluding Roath & Cardiff).

The fact that approximately 75% of Roath's population was born within the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth is perhaps an indication of the limited mobility between essentially agrarian communities during the first half of the 19th century. Readers may find it surprising that notwithstanding the small net increase (23 persons) in Roath's population between 1821 and 1851, less than 30% of residents were born within the parish, thereby suggesting a substantial flow of individuals to and from places not far distant (this aspect has been confirmed by an examination of the parish registers for Roath and will be the subject of a future article).

It will be noted that an abnormally high number of persons were born in the English counties of Gloucester, Somerset and Wiltshire. Gloucestershire is easily explained since four of the nine persons concerned were born in Bristol, a city with which South Wales had important commercial connections over a number of centuries. The majority of employed persons born in Wiltshire were engaged in agriculture while those born in Somerset were engaged in a variety of occupations, thus:-

<b>Somerset</b>	<b>Wiltshire</b>
1 Apprentice milliner	5 Agric. labourers
1 Agric. labourer	1 Farmer
1 Freestone sawyer	2 Gardeners
1 Groom	1 Herdsman
1 House servant	1 Waggoner
1 Journeyman cordwainer	
1 Journeyman mason	
1 Nurse	
1 Rail labourer	
1 Thrasher	

It remains to be seen whether the 1861 and 1871 censuses reveal a continuing flow of persons from the aforementioned counties.

Those persons born outside England and Wales were as follows:-

**Ireland**

Jessie Ellis	Dairy maid
Michael Kenefick	Clerk (to G.W.C. Jackson of Roath Castle)
Whitlock Nicholl	Magistrate & Distributor of Stamps for County of Glamorgan
Ellen Turney	House servant

**India**

George William Collins Jackson	Army captain
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**America**

Mary Taylor	Soldier's wife
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## AGE and SEX STRUCTURE

I have prepared at Appendix 2 a "pyramid" graph depicting the age and sex structure of the parish, the vertical axis representing five year bands and the horizontal axis percentages of total population. Males are represented to the left and females to the right of the central vertical line.

Perhaps the aspect that strikes the eye is the fact that a few people were living to a good age. The eldest male in the parish was William Prosser, an 85 year old retired mason, while the oldest female was Ann Edmund, a 78 year old pauper, formerly a cook.

Although the significance of the information contained in the pyramid graph will become apparent when a direct comparison is made with the graphs relating to the 1861 and 1871 censuses, I would observe that the initial examination of the later censuses suggests that in 1851 there was a comparatively low number of children under the age of 15 years; it remains to be seen whether the reasons for this situation (e.g. economic factors or disease) can be identified.

Appendix 3 is a transcript of a typical page taken from the enumerator "s book covering Roath parish.

G.H.Penfold

## **BRIEF NOTES ON THE 1841 CENSUS - ROATH**

The Enumeration District coincided with the parish.

Area: 3500 acres.

<u>No. of houses:</u>	(a) inhabited	60
	(b) uninhabited	-
	(c) building	-
	<b>Total:</b>	60

<u>Persons:</u>	(a) male	159
	(b) female	139
	<b>Total:</b>	298

The named properties are: Roath Court, Adamsdown, Plasnewydd, Longcross House, Splott House, Great House, Great Barn, Mill, Llwyn-y-Grant, Roath Cottage, Dairy Farm, Pengam House, Gurnon Cottage, Ty n-y-coed, Adamsdown Farmhouse, Castle Lodge, Lower Splott, Four Elms, Little Longcross, Cimtha and Ty Gwyn.

Occupations: (if more than 1, number is given in brackets):

Farmers (7); Shepherds (3); Gardeners (2); Market Gardener; Agric. labourers/labourers (41); Servants employed by farmers;(20 male, 30 female); Dairy-women (2) Agent; Butler; Groom; Housekeepers (3); Steward; Washwomen (2); School mistress; Butcher; Victualler; Smith; Shipwright; Shoemaker; Tailor; Miller; Clerk; Mariner; Clergyman.

There are 18 adults whose occupation is not stated, the remainder of the population being made up of:-

Scholars (age 6 - 14)..... 49,

Infants (under 5)..... 29

Pensioners (2); Boarders (2); Independent (9); Elderly (2); Gentry sons (2); Wives (39); Other adult females (20)



## APPENDIX 1

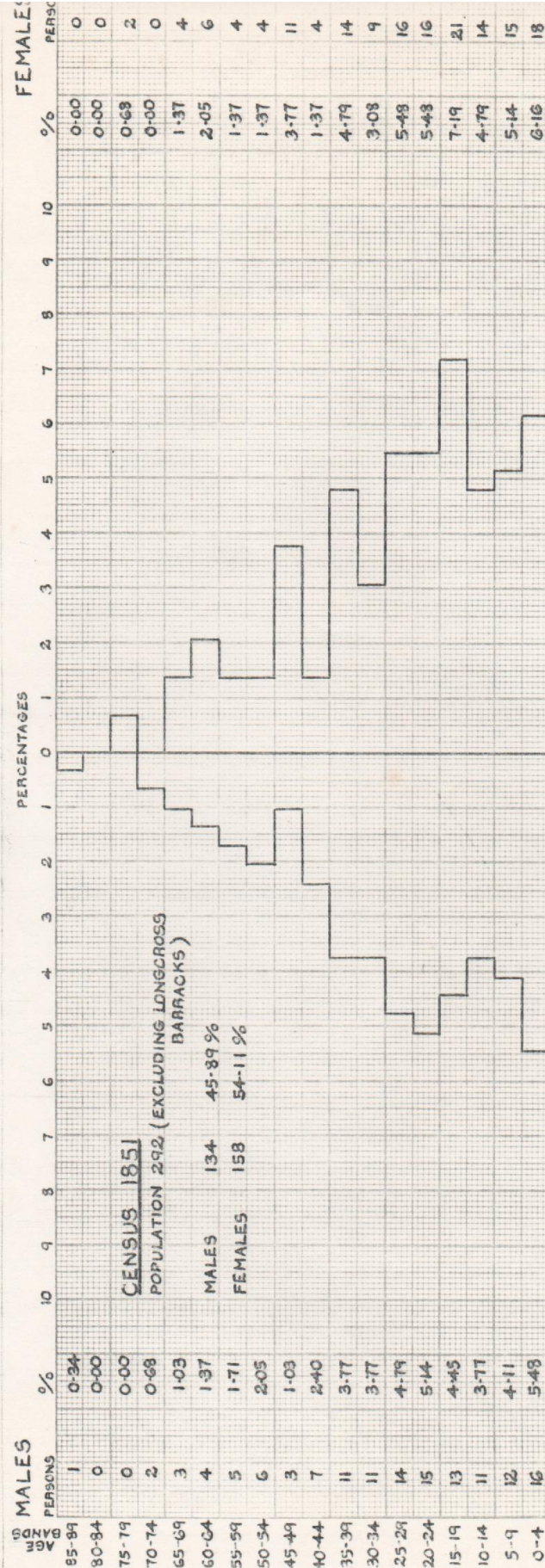
1851 Census of Roath. Analysis of places of birth within Glamorgan (Excluding Roath and Cardiff)

<b>No. of persons</b>	<b>Places</b>
1	Aberavon
2	Aberdare
1	Cadoxton
1	Caerphilly
1	Cogan
1	Coity
2	Coulston
1	Coychurch
1	Dinas Powis
2	Eglwysilan
1	Lisvane
2	Llanblethian
1	Llanbradach
3	Llandaf
3	Llanedeyrn
2	Llanishen
4	Llantrisant
1	Llantrithyd
2	Llantwit Fardre
1	Llantwit Major
1	Penllyn
4	Pentyrch
2	Peterston-super-Ely
9	Rumney
1	St.Andrews Major
7	St.Fagans
1	St.Georges-super-Ely
2	St.Nicholas
2	Sully
1	Tythegston
1	Welsh St Donats
2	Wenvoe
8	Whitchurch
<b>Total:</b>	<b>74</b>

# Appendix 2

Roath 1851

565



# Age-sex Structure

