

Two Braund Villages

The C19th populations of Bucks Mills and Cargreen

Branches 2 & 6

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Bucks Mills is a fishing hamlet on the coast of north-west Devon, between the better-known settlements of Clovelly and Bideford. The population of Bucks Mills remained at roughly the same level throughout the second half of the C19th, ranging from a low point of 110 in 1901, to a maximum of 124 in 1871. It seems likely that the physical size of the village also remained constant, as there is no evidence of new building during this period.



For this research, the families present in Bucks Mills in 1841 were noted and each succeeding decennial census was checked to establish how many families remained in the village, how many left, and how many newcomers arrived. The residential persistence of each family name was then calculated. For the years 1871 and 1901, the geographical origins of the residents were examined, in order to establish catchment areas for the in-migrants. In Bucks Mills, it is difficult to use the place of birth information from the census to establish whether or not a resident was born within the hamlet itself. This is because census returns tend to give parishes as places of birth and, although the parish of St. Anne's Bucks Mills was created in 1862, census enumerators continued to use the parent parishes of Woolfardisworthy and Parkham

as birthplaces. It is therefore not possible to tell, from the census, whether individuals were born in the hamlet or elsewhere in the parishes of which it was a part. Even allowing from the fact that a proportion of those with Woolfardisworthy or Parkham birthplaces will not necessarily have been born within Bucks Mills, considering this data can still give an impression of the distance from which people were willing to travel to live in Bucks Mills. When examining the origins of residents, migrants from Devon and Cornwall have been considered together as a category. This is because Bucks Mills is close to the county boundary and migration from one county is as likely as migration from the other.

Residential persistence in Bucks Mills

In 1841 there were 23 families in Bucks Mills, ten years later 15 remained, 8 had left and 5 new families had moved to the village, leaving a total of 20 families. With the exception of the decade 1871-1881, the number of outgoing families always exceeded the number of incoming families. Thus, 1901 finds only 13 different surnames residing in Bucks Mills. In any given ten-year period, between 67% and 81% of the surnames remain, averaging 74%. If twenty-year periods are considered the figures show between 50% and 61% of surnames remaining. Of the 13 families that are found in Bucks Mills in 1901, 31% had been there since 1841. In Bucks Mills, persistence that lasts for more than a generation is accounted for by four families, the Braunds, Daveys, Bagelholes and the Sanders. It is significant to note that all four of these families had been in Bucks Mills from its inception in the 1810s. It is also necessary to consider the numbers of representatives of each of these four family names. The longest resident families were amongst the most numerous, 34% of all known nineteenth century residents were born with the surname Braund. The next highest percentage is for the name Sanders, with a figure of only 4%. Of 110 people in Bucks Mills in 1901 only 30 did not have one of these four surnames and of these 30, at least 15 were descended from one of these 4 families. Thus, in 1901, ninety-five out of one hundred and ten (86%) of Bucks Mills residents had ancestors who had been in the village since the 1810s. These four long-term resident families left the village during the twentieth century. There is no trace of the Bagelholes after 1901, and the Daveys leave in 1902, however they only travel to the adjacent hamlet of Bucks Cross. The Sanders remained in Bucks Mills until 1950 and the Braunds until 1997.

In Bucks Mills there are 23 different surnames present in 1841, 20 in 1851, 18 in 1861, 15 in 1871, 18 in 1881, 16 in 1891 and 13 in 1901. This suggests that Bucks Mills was increasingly becoming a village of a single surname or family, for example, between the 1840s and 1860s,

approximately 30% of the population had the surname Braund, by 1881 this had risen to 57% and by 1901 to 66%. This prompted the Evening Standard to say that all the inhabitants were called Braund, and the Times to describe Bucks Mills as 'the village of a single surname'.

Bucks Mills' in-migrants

Although the figures suggest that, throughout this period, fifty different surnames are represented, this is not the case. Six families leave the village and return at a later date; thus there are only forty-four family surnames resident in Bucks Mills at some time between 1841 and 1901. There are twenty-one new surnames that arrive in the village during this time. Thirteen of these in-migrant surnames are men who marry into families of the 1841 residents. Five of the new surnames are relatives of the existing surnames in some other way. One incoming surname belongs to a servant of a resident. There are only two new surnames, which have no apparent connection to the existing families.

An analysis of the origin of Bucks Mills' residents of 1871 shows that 81% had been born in Parkham or Woolfardisworthy. A further 14% had come into Bucks Mills from no further than a neighbouring parish, meaning that only 7 residents of Bucks Mills had been born more than a few miles from the village. Increased mobility and dwindling self-sufficiency might be expected to have led to an increase in those travelling from further afield to live in Bucks Mills by 1901. However the figures for 1901 are very similar to those for 1871. In fact, although the percentage coming from Parkham, Woolfardisworthy or an adjacent parish is the same, the percentage for those from Parkham and Woolfardisworthy alone has increased to 85%, at the expense of those from neighbouring parishes.



Bucks Mills' out-migrants

Thirty-seven surnames leave the village between 1841 and 1901, of which six return later on during this period. Of the eight surnames that leave Bucks Mills between 1841 and 1851, five were single instances of the name belonging to people such as servants or lodgers. This pattern continues until the end of the century. Thus, as might be expected, families tended to remain, whereas singletons migrated.

Residential persistence in Cargreen

The hamlet of Cargreen, Cornwall, on the banks of the River Tamar, the C19th home of the branch 6 Braunds, was compared to Bucks Mills.



In Cargreen there are 45 surnames present in 1841, of which 18 persist to 1871. During these thirty years 41 new names arrive, thus increasing the number of families represented by 44%. This is in contrast to the situation in Bucks Mills, where the number of surnames decreased by 35%. In Cargreen, the figure for the number of surnames present in 1871, who had been resident in 1841, is 18, or 29% of the 1871 total. Although this is less than the Bucks Mills figure of 40%, with small samples this is not a notable difference. If the second thirty-year period is considered, the similarities between Bucks Mills and Cargreen are even more marked. In Bucks Mills, 46% of its 1901 families had been in the village in 1871 and in Cargreen the figure is 49%. Of the 59 surnames present in Cargreen in 1871, 22 (37%) were still there in 1901, which indicates an increasing rate of stability as the nineteenth century wore on. The situation is however very different if those present for the full sixty-year period, 1841 to 1901, is considered. In Bucks Mills 31% of the 1901 families had been present for sixty years but in Cargreen the figure is only 11%. Seen from another perspective, 17% of the families in Bucks Mills in 1841 were still there sixty years later, compared with only 13% in Cargreen. These long-term Cargreen residents were members of the Gill, Moon, Prideaux, Dawe, Spry and Barrett families, all of which are in the 1978 phone book for the Saltash district, to which Landulph belongs. The Barretts are still farming in Cargreen today and the Prideaux are still in Landulph. The Braunds arrived from the neighbouring hamlet of Waytown in the 1840s and remain in the village to this day.

Origins of Cargreen residents

Cargreen was part of the parish of Landulph. Unlike Bucks Mills, whose parent parishes of Woolfardisworthy and Parkham were comparatively populous, the main centre of population in Landulph was the hamlet of Cargreen. According to the 1881 census index, at this time, 50% of the inhabitants of Landulph were in Cargreen itself. This compares to 9% of Parkham residents being in the Parkham part of Bucks Mills. In 1871, 75, or 29% of the 257 Cargreen residents were not born in Landulph but nearly a third (23) of these were born in neighbouring parishes. The only individuals who were born further afield than Devon or Cornwall were Samuel Crook a 42 year old army pensioner from Chorley in Lancashire, Elizabeth Blamey a 23 year old schoolmistress from Liverpool and Thomas Strain aged 70, a naval pensioner from Gloucestershire. Both Crook and Strain had wives who were born within 10 miles of Cargreen and Elizabeth Blamey's grandmother was born in Landulph.

In 1901, 88 or 38% of Cargreen residents were not born in Landulph. This contrasts with Bucks Mills, who had an increasing number of locally born residents as the century wore on. However almost all of those who were not born in Landulph had migrated no further than the counties of Devon or Cornwall. The exceptions were Samuel Crook, mentioned above, Elizabeth Edgecombe who was born in Leamington, but whose husband was born in Cargreen, and Mary Hocking, London born but married to a man from nearby Stoke Damerel. In conclusion, the village is stable as regards residential persistence in nineteenth century. In-comers were short-distance migrants or those who were related to locals.

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