

BALLAUGH IN THE 1831 CENSUS *



POPULATION OF THE ISLE OF MAN, 1831—BALLAUGH

Inhabited Houses 279; Families 279; Houses Building 0; Houses not Inhabited 6; Families in Agriculture, 89; Families in Trade, &c, 100; Families in All Other, 90; Males, 685; Females, 726; Males upwards of 20 years, 302; Agriculture 1 Class, 61; Agriculture 2 Class, 17; Agricultural Labourers, 83; Manufacturers, 0; Retail, &c, 92; Wholesale, and educated Men, 5; Labourers not Agricultural, 0; All other Males upwards 20 years, 21; Male Servants upwards 20 years, 23; Male Servants under 20 years, 20; Female Servants, 149. Total 1411. Total of Census, 1821, 1467.

“Population of the Isle of Man, 1831.” *Manx Sun* 21 June 1831: 3a.

These figures are extracted from the tabular report of the 1831 census for the parish of Ballaugh that appeared in the *Manx Sun* and so are not the easiest of reads in the format above. But one can see clearly there the purpose of the early censuses, namely simple headcounts and a broad breakdown of occupational structure. There was no enumeration as is now familiar when working with the later census records. Note first of all the size of the population: 1,411 as compared some 70 years later with 699 inhabitants recorded in the 1901 census. And then 279 households, again compared with some 175 in 1901. And already the population is in decline, a drop of 56 in number from 1,467 recorded in 1821. One suspects the six houses listed as being uninhabited were empty due to emigration. The 1831 population of Ballaugh consisted of 685 males and 726 females, close to being 1 on 1. As regards occupations carried on, agriculture surprisingly comes out at the bottom of the list with just 89 families engaged so. “Families in Trade” were a round 100, and the catch-all of “Families in All Other” came close behind with 90. Quite what these non-agriculture activities were that could sustain 190 families calls for further research. But in the eyes of the 1831 census, Ballaugh was not as such a solely agricultural parish. Notice that there is no category at all, for fishermen, again another surprise. Males over the age of 20 were enumerated at being 302 in total. The most were agricultural labourers (161), the next largest group were involved in retail (92), followed by servants (20), and a group seemingly of miscellaneous occupations (21), which left just the category “Wholesale, and educated Men” (5). (The comma here is of importance one feels....) Male servants under 20 years old curiously numbered 20. The only breakdown of female occupation is for servants, some 149 of them.

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