

1 Introduction

For the three years from 1978 to 1981, an evening class led by Barry Harrison of the University of Leeds, Harrow Road, Middlesbrough, analysed the entries in the Great Ayton Parish Registers. Complete families of mother, father and children were reconstituted, and used to complete Tables 1 to 11 below. These tables were transcribed, by Ian Pearce in March 2008, from a copy of the original in the ownership of Mrs Carol Cook of Swainby.

1 Great Ayton Parish - Age at marriage

Source: Barry Harrison's Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

	Under 20	20, 21	22, 23	24, 25	26, 27	28, 29	30 & over	Total
a) Females:								
1691-1740	2	2	8	4	6	1	4	(27)
1741-1790	10	9	17	12	15	5	23	(91)
1791-1840	19	19	20	9	8	5	15	(95)
b) Males:								
1691-1740	3	4	3	2	3	3	4	(22)
1741-1790	8	8	11	12	7	4	25	(75)
1791-1840	7	5	16	16	9	3	18	(74)

2 Great Ayton Parish – Months between marriage and birth of first child

Source: Barry Harrison's Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

(The percentages and conclusions were not included in the original data)

	Under 9	9-12	13-18	19-24	Over 24	Total
1691-1720	11	15	10	5	14	55
	20%	27%	18%	9%	26%	
1721-1750	23	29	8	6	18	84
	27%	35%	10%	7%	21%	
1751-1780	31	27	17	9	18	102
	30%	26%	17%	9%	18%	
1781-1810	41	30	19	5	14	109
	38%	27%	17%	5%	13%	
1811-1840	43	26	13	8	16	106
	41%	24%	12%	8%	15%	

Conclusions:

The birth-rate doubles over the eighteenth century, and then stabilises as we move into the nineteenth century.

The proportion of marriages where the female is already pregnant increases steadily over the whole period from 20% to over 40%.

3 Great Ayton Parish – Illegitimate births

Source: Barry Harrison's Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

	Number illegitimate	Percentage of all births
1691-1720	9	2.5%
1721-1750	18	3.2%
1751-1780	22	3.3%
1781-1810	66	8.7%
1811-1840	80	7.8%

4 Great Ayton Parish – Pre-nuptial conception of first child

Source: Barry Harrison's Family Reconstitution Project 1978 to 1981

	Number	Percentage
1691-1720	11	20.0
1721-1750	23	27.4
1751-1780	31	30.4
1781-1810	41	37.6
1811-1840	43	40.6

5 Great Ayton Parish – Remarriage

Marriages in which one or both partners had been married previously

Source: Barry Harrison's Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

	1691-1740	1741-1790	1791-1840	Total
Second marriage of the male	8	27	18	55
Second marriage of the female	3	17	16	36
Second marriage of both	0	5	11	16
Total	11	49	45	105
All other marriages	202	257	295	749
Therefore all marriages	213	306	340	854
Percentage of all marriages involving remarriage of one or both partners	5.2%	16.0%	13.4%	12.3%

6 Great Ayton Parish – Interval between marriages 1691-1840

Source: Barry Harrison's Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

(The conclusion were not included in the original data)

	Under 1 yr	1-2 yrs	2-3 yrs	3-4 yrs	Over 4 yrs	Total
Men	8	5	1	2	7	23
Women	3	2	2	0	7	14

Conclusion:

Assuming that the average interval for those recorded as over 4 years was in fact 7 years, then the average interval between marriages for men is 3 years and for women is 4 years.

7 Great Ayton Parish – Ages of children at mother’s death when father later remarried

Source: Barry Harrison’s Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

Period	Number of marriages	Children 0-4	Children 5-9	Children 10-14	Children 15 & over	Total children
1691-1740	4	6	5	0	2	13
1741-1790	11	17	7	8	4	36
1791-1840	10	11	5	5	12	33
All periods	25	34	17	13	18	82

7a) Great Ayton Parish – Ages of children at mother’s death when father later remarried

Here the above Table 7 has been recast in terms of the average family

Period		Children 0-4	Children 5-9	Children 10-14	Children 15 & over	Children per family
1691-1740		1.5	1.25	0	0.5	3.25
1741-1790		1.5	0.65	0.75	0.35	3.25
1791-1840		1.1	0.5	0.5	1.2	3.3
All periods		1.4	0.7	0.5	0.7	3.3

8 Great Ayton Parish – Ages of children at death of a parent

Source: Barry Harrison’s Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

Period		Children 0-4	Children 5-9	Children 10-14	Children 15 & over	Total children
1691-1740		28	31	20	47	126
1741-1790		47	47	31	116	241
1791-1840		49	34	28	208	319
All periods		124	112	79	371	686

8a) Great Ayton Parish – Ages of children at death of a parent

(Here the above Table 8 has been recast in percentage terms)

Period	Children 0-4	Children 5-9	Children 10-14	Children 15 & over
1691-1740	22%	25%	16%	37%
1741-1790	20%	20%	12%	48%
1791-1840	15%	11%	9%	65%
All periods	18%	16%	12%	54%

9) Great Ayton Parish – Age structure of families at death of parent

Source: Barry Harrison's Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

Period	Children all under 15	Children some under 15	Children all over 15	Children Total numbers
1691-1740	22	10	7	39
1741-1790	29	12	31	72
1791-1840	25	13	45	83
All periods	76	35	83	194

10) Great Ayton Parish – Fertility: Completed families

Source: Barry Harrison's Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

Period	Average age of mother at baptism of first child	Average age of mother at baptism of last child	Average number of live births per mother
1691-1750	26.7	38.7	5.0
1751-1780	26.0	39.1	6.2
1781-1810	24.4	40.0	6.6
1811-1840	22.9	37.9	6.1
All periods	25.4	38.7	6.1

11) Great Ayton Parish – Deaths in infancy, burials of children under 15 belonging to the families in Table 10 above

Source: Barry Harrison's Family Reconstitution Project of 1978 to 1981

Period	Number buried	Average per family
1691-1750	17	1.1
1751-1780	21	1.2
1781-1810	20	0.9
1811-1840	17	1.2