

Analysis of household items in Templand Inventories in the 17th and 18th century

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The contents recorded in inventories give us clues to how people lived in the 17th and 18th centuries. William Rollinson's book *Life and Tradition in the Lake District* published in 1974 looked at *Hearth and Home* - some farmhouse equipment. He suggested that the richest farmers or statesmen's hearths included a cooking spit for roasting large joints of meat on the open fire. Less affluent farmhouses would not have this arrangement and meat would be boiled in a huge iron pots suspended over the fire from a ratten-crook. Frying pans were common. A brandreth was a 3-legged iron support for the girdle or bakstone on which clapbread (unleavened bread made from oats) was baked. Mash vat was used for brewing. Cockle pans were common. Butter and cheese for self-consumption would mean that basic equipment would exist. Milk was carried in wooden pails from the fields. Food was stored in arks and chists (chests). Food was eaten off pewter plates in the grander houses or wooden trenchers in the poorer ones. Lighting would be provided by rushlights (known as sieves) and candles. Rushlights were made from the pith of peeled reeds and dipped in bacon fat or sheep and bullock fat which produced a superior rushlight that did not smoke or gutter. They were fixed into a holder. Candles were made from tallow. A clock would only be found in the richest households. Inventories completed after 1700 do not have as much detail, generally just a value per room.

At Templand the following were recorded in inventories

17th Century Inventories

Kitchen, cooking equipment and food

Roger Fell 1616

Pans and pewter; wooden vessel arks and little chests

Jennett Waller 1621

brass pots and pans; wooden vessels; iron gear with one girdle; salt; clay pots, butter and cheese; ark and old chist.

Richard Bateman 1645

chests; barrels; one tub and a barrel; cheese; pewter; a brass pot; pans; 2 silver spoons; earthen pots; stands gallons and other wood vessels; griddle, frying pan, brand iron etc; flesh and suet.

George Hayle 1665

hogsheads and barrels; brass, pewter & iron pots and wood, girdle, brand iron, spit, arken wood & tongs; tallow, earthen pots, wood vessel; 1 frying pan; hams; flesh tub; bearkin(bacon)

John Burscough 1668

pewter dublets (large plates), spoons, candlesticks and 1 flagon; brass pots and pans; 1 frying pan; wood vessels; gridiron, brand iron, speet(spit), racken crook, tongs and cockle pan.

Margaret Hall 1668s

earthen pots; beef and mutton; wooden vessel; pots, pans and pewter; girdle, brand iron and spit; racken crook, vessels and tongs; oatmeal and groats.

Augustine Simpson 1672

Brass and pewter; girdle, brand iron, spit, racken crook, frying pan and one iron pot; wood vessel; chest and boxes; earthen pots; butter, cheese and other provisions; candle seafes (rushlights?)

Richard Holmes 1678

Brass and pewter; girdle, brand iron, spit & other iron gear; wood vessel; chists and arkes.

Robert Bateman 1684

brass and pewter; chests; girdle, spit; wood vessel;

William Gardner 1689

2 chists; wood vessel; 1 brass pot; 3 pans; 8 doublers (large platter bowls), 6 spoons, tarbott? forks; girdle, brand iron, racken crook, frying pan; chist, barrel; meal seefe, pork; boryams(bacon), 3 prs hams.

George Waller 1690

chist; beef; brass and other iron goods; pewter; hams and barjams (bacon).

Bedding and furniture**Roger Fell 1616**

Nothing listed in inventory

Jennett Waller 1621

bedding; bedstocks (frame).

Richard Bateman 1645

a chaff bed, a feather bed, bolsters, coverlets and blankets; bedstocks.

George Hayle 1665

bedding; table, chairs, stools and cushions;

John Burscough 1668

bedding and bedstocks; chairs, stools, cushions, forms, 1 table and shelves;

Margaret Hall 1668s

sheets and cover cloth; blanket and bouldsters; featherbed; chaffbed; chairs; cushions; pair of bed stocks.

Augustine Simpson 1672

chairs, stools, cushions and a table; coverlets and blankets; beds, 1 flockbed, 2 pillows, 1 feather bolster, chaff bolster and a flock bolster; 2 pairs of bed stocks;

Richard Holmes 1678

bedstocks and bedding; a table and chairs, forms and stools

Robert Bateman 1684

bedstocks and bedding; chair, cushion and 1 table;

William Gardner 1689; 1 bolster, 1 pair bedstocks, curtains; cupboard; tables, 3 chairs, 4 shelves, forms; 2 chaff beds and bolsters; 3 cover cloths and blanket; 1 pair bed stocks, table; 1 chafbed; 1 pair sheets, 2 coverlets, blanket.

George Waller 1690

beds and bed stocks; 1 table, forms; bedding; 3 pairs of bed stocks.

18th century inventories

These are less detailed and after about 1720 of no use for identifying what goods people owned. Cooking equipment is not individually specified, just entered as iron gear.

Edward Waller 1703

table, form and 8 chairs; pewter, ironware, wood basins, spoons; goods in the kitchen; bed, 2 chairs and a table; 2 chairs and a bed; another bed; household provisions

Ann Waller 1707

brass, pewter and iron goods; bedstock and bedding; chests, low arks and cupboard dresser.

Augustine Fell 1711

chaff bed and ordinary furniture and a joiners work chest

George Hall 1718

2 chests; bedding & chairs & table & barrel, a flesh tub(meat storage) with other goods; bed stocks; brass and pewter and iron gear and other goods; meal and malt and other victuals(food);

Miscellaneous personal items**George Hayle 1665**

Richard Holmes 1678 a gold ring

George Waller 1690 books; gun

Edward Waller 1703 clock; warming pan

Conclusion

I conclude that from the middle of the century these people were well-to-do yeomen as most had spits for cooking large joints of meat and ate off pewter and brass. No inventory mentioned a fire dog or andiron which would stand either side of a fire to prevent logs rolling out but loose wood was mentioned. Therefore, does this indicate that fires were solely peat fuelled? Surprisingly very little lighting was mentioned in these inventories. Stored meat also was rare but the time of year that the inventory was taken would have had a large influence on what stocks were being held.

Furniture was simple. Many owned chairs, and a table; stools and forms (bench seats?) were often included as well. A cupboard dresser was noted in 1707. Cushions were common but curtains were only mentioned once.

Bed stocks(frames) and bedding were listed in all but one inventory. Some inventories contained more detailed information than others. The number of bed frames was not always specified. Mattresses(beds) were often filled with chaff (debris left after separating seeds) but there was a mention of feather or flock mattresses 3 times. Only one person had a pillow; most had bolsters (a long, sausage-shaped, shared pillow). Sheets were only mentioned once but most had blankets and coverlets.

Personal items were rare. Only two owned books suggesting these were educated men. The only clock that was mentioned was in 1703. Only one person owned a gun. A gold ring was owned by one person.

Every inventory included 'apparel 'but it was not itemised so we do not know what was worn.

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