

The Building Trade

We take many of the materials used in our buildings for granted in this day and age, but the history of how those materials have developed are as fascinating as the lives of the people who used them. Children were used as labourers from making the bricks themselves through to carrying rubble away from the building sites.

What did they do?

Here are just a few of the lesser known building occupations that you might come across:

Bearer on - Carried wet clay from the pug mill (where the clay was prepared) to the brick maker's table, where the bricks were moulded.

Bearer off - Carried the finished bricks from the brick maker's table to the drying shed

Both of these jobs were often carried out by children.

Clot Moulder - He would prepare the lump of clay for the brick moulder

Form Fitter - Fitted "forms" for building arches, for example, which were the wooden frames upon which the bricks were laid to take the shape of the arch.

House Wright - House builder

Pargeter - Applied pargetting (ornamental plaster) to buildings. Excellent examples of this may be seen in Essex, especially Saffron Walden.

Stone Dresser - Prepared the quarried stone in readiness for building. This would include cutting it into regular sized blocks with a reasonably even surface.

Please be aware that this is just a small list of Building-related occupations and you will probably discover a lot more.

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If you have a question about your Building Trade ancestors, we have a forum where you can post those questions. Register for FREE at <http://www.genealogy-specialists.com/> and tell us about the ancestor that you are researching. The members will do their best to help you.

If you would like to discover more about your ancestors who worked in the Building trade, the buildings that they created or want to know more about their lives, listed below are some products that will certainly help you - and all of them are available from [www.parishchest.com](http://www.parishchest.com). Just pop the reference number in the website search box to see the details:

- Clay and Cob Buildings (Book) Ref: KFHS-3946
- Edwardian House Original Features and Fittings Ref: CSB-43122

- Edwardian Architecture: A Biographical Dictionary Ref: MJB-CB203
- Craftsmen and Tradesmen (Book) Ref: NWA-OHM20
- Evidence on the Employment of Children 1842 Ref: ARB-1068al
- Londoners' Occupations Ref: FHP-008

Many more products are also available from Parish Chest that would be specific to the area that you are researching. Use the website search box and pop in key words such as **Building** and **Builder**. You never know what you might find!