

Before the Luddites

Custom, community and machinery
in the English woollen industry
1776-1809

Adrian Randall



Before The Luddites

Frank Peel



Before The Luddites:

Before the Luddites Adrian Randall, 2002-06-03 A study of the early Industrial Revolution in the English woollen cloth making industry *Writings of the Luddites* Kevin Binfield, 2015-06-30 As mechanization spread through the British cloth industries in the early nineteenth century skilled textile workers already suffering because of a generally weak economy high unemployment and the weakening of traditional guilds saw their wages and jobs erode further Earlier efforts to block the introduction of powered machinery through legislation had failed and in 1811 loosely organized bands of workers striking most often by night first in the Midlands then in Yorkshire and Northwestern England began destroying the new knitting frames and other equipment Claiming as their leader the probably mythical Ned Ludd they became known as Luddites Although best known for violent action the Luddite movement also produced a considerable body of writing from threatening letters to petitions and proclamations to poems and songs In this book literary scholar Kevin Binfield collects a broad range of complete texts written by Luddites or their sympathizers from 1811 to 1816 adding detailed notes on each and organizing them according to the three major regions of Luddite activity To introduce the volume Binfield provides a historical overview of the Luddites then examines more closely their rhetorical strategies while illuminating the literary contexts of their writings Ranging from judicious to bloodthirsty in tone the texts reveal a fascination with legal forms of address and an acute awareness of the recent political revolutions in France and America and reflect also the more personal forms of Romantic literature As Adrian Randall of the University of Birmingham concludes in his foreword this collection of diverse carefully presented texts clearly demonstrates the significance of Luddite writings within the movement and serves as an important reference for scholars of rhetoric and of the history of labor technology and society Book Jacket **The risings of the**

Luddites Frank Peel, 1888 *The Risings of the Luddites, Chartists and Plug-drawers* Frank Peel, 1895 *The Risings of the Luddites* Frank Peel, 2019-05-20 Published in 1968 Interest in the Luddite machine breaking and food riots of 1812 which took place in the North and Midlands continues unabated Peel was a pioneer local historian collecting oral accounts from participants and old inhabitants as well as studying the printed evidence carefully In the introduction to the new edition E P Thompson claims that Peel's general account of Luddism in that part of Yorkshire in which he was interested around Huddersfield has proved to be more accurate than the analysis of Luddism as a purely industrial phenomenon given by twentieth century historians including the Hammonds This book will be useful to historians of working class movements

The Battle Against the Luddites Paul L. Dawson, 2023-10-12 As the columns of French infantry marched up the slopes of the Mont St Jean at Waterloo the British heavy cavalry the Royal Scots Greys to the fore crashed into the packed ranks of the enemy This was not the first time the Greys had drawn their swords during the Napoleonic Wars but it was their first against Napoleon's troops Three years earlier they had attacked workers in Halifax protesting at the introduction of machinery in the wool trade Taking their name from Ned Ludd who had smashed up knitting frames in Nottingham the Luddites saw the

emergence of mechanization as a threat to their livelihood with machines replacing men In response they took matters into their own hands by wrecking the new equipment Industrial unrest had gathered pace throughout the 18th century and exploded in an unrepresented wave of violence in 1799 Outbreaks of machine breaking developed rapidly into strikes in a battle of capital against labor A court battle ensued culminating in new legislation in 1806 that backed the capitalists This act coupled with the impact of the Continental system introduced by Napoleon which closed European and American ports to British merchants heralded the largest economic depression of the era Famine pestilence and rising employment all fueled the fires of Luddism Months of violence swept across the West Midlands Lancashire and Yorkshire which saw one factory boss murdered other factory owners began shooting protesting workers The disturbances resulted in the mobilizing of thousands of regular soldiers at one time there were as many British soldiers fighting the Luddites than there were fighting Napoleon on the Iberian Peninsula As well as exploring these events Paul L Dawson also uncovers the origins of Luddism and their allies in the middle classes The Napoleonic Wars marked the end of centuries old way of life in agriculture textile production and the wider economy The dramatic changes in Britain between 1790 and 1815 created a unique set of social grievances by those left behind by the unprecedented changes that were surging through the Britain which exploded into bitter fighting across large swathes of the country With present day concerns over computerization replacing labor this is a story that echoes down the centuries

Improper Names Marco Deseriis, 2015-10-01 *Improper Names* offers a genealogy and theory of the improper name which author Marco Deseriis defines as the adoption of the same pseudonym by organized collectives affinity groups and individual authors Although such names are often invented to pursue a specific social or political agenda they are soon appropriated for different and sometimes diverging purposes This book examines the tension arising from struggles for control of a pseudonym s symbolic power Deseriis provides five fascinating and widely varying case studies Ned Ludd was the legendary and eponymous leader of the English Luddites textile workers who threatened the destruction of industrial machinery and then advanced a variety of economic and political demands Alan Smithee an alias coined by Hollywood film directors in 1969 in order to disown films that were recut by producers became a contested signature and was therefore no longer effective to signal prevarication to Hollywood insiders Monty Cantsin was an open pop star created by U S and Canadian artists in the late 1970s to critique bourgeois notions of authorship but its communal character was compromised by excessive identification with individual users of the name The Italian media activists calling themselves Luther Blissett aware of the Cantsin experience implemented measures to prevent individuals from assuming the alias which was used to author media pranks sell apocryphal manuscripts to publishers fabricate artists and artworks and author best selling novels The longest chapter here is devoted to the contemporary hacktivist group known as Anonymous which protests censorship and restricted access to information and information technologies After delving into a rich philosophical debate on community among those who have nothing in common the book concludes with a reflection on how

the politics of improper names affects present day anticapitalist social movements such as Occupy and 15 M *Dark Future* Glenn Beck, 2023-07-11 In *Dark Future Uncovering the Great Reset s Terrifying Next Phase* New York Times bestselling authors Glenn Beck and Justin Haskins reveal the most important technologies and social and cultural changes that will soon cause an unprecedented level of disruption in the United States as well as in countless other nations They also outline the dangers and opportunities associated with these disruptions and provide a plan to protect individuals and families from losing their liberty Amazon *The Risings of the Luddites, Chartists and Plugdrawers* Frank Peel, 1888 Ben o' Bill's, the Luddite: A Yorkshire Tale D. F. E. Sykes, George Henry Walker, 2022-06-02 D F E Sykes Ben o Bill s the Luddite A Yorkshire Tale is a hauntingly vivid portrayal of early 19th century England engulfed in the throes of the Industrial Revolution First appearing in 1898 this work distinguished itself from its contemporaries through its compelling use of the Yorkshire dialect and a profound empathy in its character depictions At its core the novel is a meticulous social history that captures the plight of disenfranchised handloom weavers faced with the advent of industrial mechanization Sykes delivers a narrative steeped in the authenticity of local culture and traditions unraveling the complexities faced by the Luddites who are often much misunderstood as mere antagonists of progress The literary style is evocative and genuine resonating the era s socio political tensions alongside a richly textured backdrop of the Colne Valley during its period of labor unrest Sykes who alongside G H Walker originally lent his pen to this work imbues his prose with a reflective understanding born of his deep familiarity with Yorkshire and its intricate social fabric In Ben o Bill s the Luddite Sykes scholarly knowledge complements his narrative technique merging a historian s precision with a storyteller s emotion This fusion not only signifies the groundbreaking methodologies in documenting social histories at the time but also reflects an impassioned perspective intending to humanize the Luddites their struggles and their noble if futile fight against the unchecked forces of industrialism and oppressive government policies Readers seeking an insightful glimpse into the textile industry s turbulent transformation and the human cost of rapid technological change will find Ben o Bill s the Luddite A Yorkshire Tale to be of significant interest Those invested in labor history linguistics or societal conflict dynamics will garner substantial merit from Sykes meticulous research and rich narrative Furthermore admirers of regional literature and dialect will be invariably intrigued by the linguistic authenticity that Sykes presents An essential read the book stands out as a testament to the necessity of understanding the past to comprehend the socioeconomic struggles that resonate even in contemporary society

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