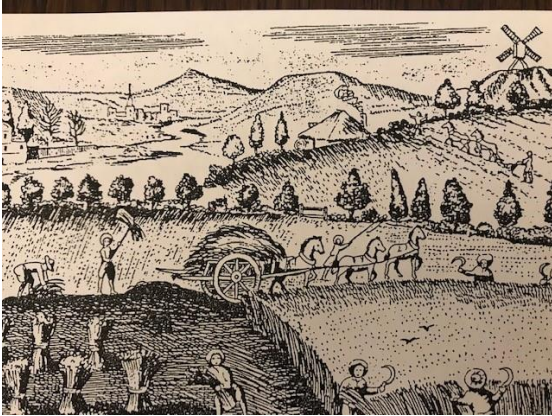


K) A SINGLE SISTER'S STORY

HOW I JOINED THE SETTLEMENT AT FULNECK



My name is Jane, and I was born in 1736 when George 2nd was King. I am 17 years old and lived on a farm near Tong, across the valley, where a new Moravian Settlement was built. I heard there was a beautiful church and two large houses where you could live and work.

It was 1753, I was 17, I thought I might be able to get work over there and learn new skills. I know a lot about farming because I helped my mum and dad look after all the animals and I also helped at harvest time to make hay and gather wheat to make bread. I was a quick learner and dad taught me how to milk the cows. Mum taught me how to make cream, butter and cheese.



How is cheese made?



A friend explained that if I was accepted to join the Fulneck Settlement I would have to go to the church regularly and agree to all the community rules. She said it was quite strict but fair! My family thought it was a good opportunity for me and maybe I would learn some new skills. My name was put forward to the Warden and happily I was accepted. I just had to wear simple clothes and a cap

with a pink ribbon to show I was not married. The married ladies wore caps with blue ribbons and the widows had white and children red.

L) WORKING IN FULNECK



I left home with my family's blessing and took only a small bundle of clothes and a candle holder which my father had exchanged for some meat at the market. I was to live in the sisters' large house with quite a few others. I was looking forward to making new friends.

At first, I helped grown vegetables in the gardens but when they realised how good I was with the animals and knew how to make butter, cream and cheese, they put me to use looking after all the livestock. Because of my experience on the farm at home I was also asked to help out in the summer bringing in the hay, and at harvest time gathering the wheat to make flour up at the windmill behind Fulneck. I was paid for my work and after contributing to the church and paying for my accommodation I was able to save a little bit of money.



I was happy too, yet I watched the other sisters spinning the wool for the brethren to weave into cloth and I soon was able to master the spinning wheel rhythm. Earning a little extra money this way I was able to send some over to my mother to help out.

My friend Rachel promised to show me how to do the satin stitch embroidery which really excited me because it was beautiful and delicate. Very different from sweeping out the cow sheds! The excellent Moravian embroidered items were sent all over England.



I enjoyed living with the other sisters and felt valued and secure in my situation. Moving into the Moravian Settlement was the best thing I did. Most of all I felt a sense of belonging especially when we had the weekly singing service and we all joined in with the singing of our favourite hymns. I truly felt the benefit of my Christian experience.