

John and Joseph Cash⁹ who completed only 48 of the planned 100 units, and in 1862 converted the upper-storey workshops to a single factory running over the tops of the dwellings. The factory remains on the banks of the Coventry Canal off Cash's Lane. Weavers struggled to maintain a list of fixed prices for labour, which was difficult in an industry in which there was no restriction on entry, and where many of the workers were children. The list was abandoned after a bitter strike in July and August 1860, soon after the treaty with France negotiated by W.E. Gladstone removed the duties which had repelled foreign competition.¹⁰

The city's other principal industry was watchmaking which employed nearly 2,000 people in 1861. The trade was specialised and required high levels of skill. Its prosperity attracted skilled migrants particularly from Holborn, Hoxton and Clerkenwell in London and from Prescott in Lancashire. The watch industry provided part of the foundation for the growth of engineering in Coventry in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as did the carpenter-loom makers of the city, such as James Moore of Little South Street who employed 29 people, and William Inchley of King William Street who had 20 workers. Heavy engineering, based on the making of iron castings, was of less importance in Coventry in the mid-nineteenth century than it was in Banbury.

The plush industry in Coventry was smaller than some of the most specialist branches of the silk trade, and by 1861 it was mostly carried on by the 101 workers from the Banbury region listed in Table One. It is difficult to make a precise calculation of the numbers of Coventry-born plush workers in the city, since some of those preparing, weaving or dyeing silk could have been involved in plush-making, and some individuals were simply called 'weavers' in the census. Nevertheless the census identifies scarcely more than a dozen Coventry-born people who were with certainty called plush weavers, together with a scattering whose origins were elsewhere, some from Kettering and Rothwell where

⁹ Their sister Eleanor in 1857 married fellow Quaker Henry Stone, a Banbury bookseller. In 1869 John invented a filing box, the patent of which he gave to his brother-in-law, the origin of the Banbury 'box factory' of Henry Stone & Son. See *Victoria County History, Oxon.*, 10, *Banbury Hundred* (1972), p.66.

¹⁰ J. Prest, *The Industrial Revolution in Coventry* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1960), pp. 96-135; Bill Lancaster, 'Who's a Real Coventry Kid? Migration into Twentieth Century Coventry', Bill Lancaster & Tony Mason, *Life and Labour in a Twentieth Century City: the Experience of Coventry*, (Coventry: Cryfield Press, 1987), pp. 57-59.