

U DBK

Records of Jack Brocklebank

1894-1990

Accession number: 1995/21; 1994/34

Biographical Background:

John (usually known as Jack) Brocklebank was born in Leven in East Yorkshire on 3 September 1911, the son of a bricklayer and a domestic servant. The sixth of nine children, he left school at 14 and began work as a farm boy at Routh near Hull. He later moved to another farm at Catwick, also in the East Riding of Yorkshire, before running his own smallholding. He joined the National Union of Agricultural Workers (which later became the National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers) in 1927, and soon became chairman of the local branch. In 1942, after an interview in London (his first trip outside Yorkshire) he was appointed NUAW regional organiser for the North Riding of Yorkshire. By now married to Ada, and eventually with a family of four daughters, he spent the rest of his life based at Dishforth near Thirsk in North Yorkshire.

Brocklebank was extremely successful in organising NUAW activities in the North Riding and beyond, and in building up union membership. His own status grew steadily, as was evidenced by the number of bodies and committees on which he was either asked to sit, or to which he was elected. In 1964, for example, he was appointed Northern Region Liaison Officer to the Minister of Agriculture, the first ex-farm worker to be appointed to such a position. This covered much of Northern England, including North Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Westmorland, and Cumberland. He served under seven ministers in this capacity. He also had a long-term interest in housing, particularly for agricultural workers, and was first invited (by Harold Macmillan) to join the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government as early as 1953.

He worked with successive NUAW leaders, including Bill Holmes, Alf Dann, Harold Collinson, Reg Bottini and Jack Boddy. Union membership nationally peaked just after World War Two and thereafter, with mechanisation, went into long-term decline. This eventually led to merger with the Transport & General Workers Union, when the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers (as it had become in 1966) became the Agricultural & Allied Workers National Trade Group of the T & GWU. Another close associate, both politically and in trade union terms, was Joan Maynard (1921-1998), who was NUAW district and county secretary between 1956 and 1978, national vice-president of the Union 1966-1972, and Member of Parliament for Sheffield Brightside between 1974-1987. Like Brocklebank, she was also a Justice of the Peace, and a parish and county councillor in North Yorkshire.

In 1969 Mr Brocklebank was appointed chairman of the Electricity Consultative Council (North Eastern Area) (of which he had been a member since 1957, and chairman of the Harrogate local committee since 1959) and Deputy Chairman of the North Pennines Rural Development Board. These two appointments led him to resign as NUAAW regional organiser in 1970. After the abolition of the Rural Development Board he resumed union work as a member of the National Executive Committee until the end of 1983. In the late 1970s he also became a non-executive director of British Sugar.

Brocklebank was active in politics for much of his life on behalf of the Labour Party, was a founder member of the Thirsk and Malton branch, and its chairman for nearly 20 years. In 1947 he was elected to the Wath Rural District Council, near Ripon (later part of Harrogate Borough Council), and to a seat on the North Yorkshire County Council between 1952 and 1955 and 1964 to 1970. He was Deputy Mayor of Harrogate in 1978/79 and in 1982 was made an Honorary Alderman after serving for 34 years as a district councillor. He also served on Dishforth Parish Council from 1946,

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acting as chairman for some 30 years. He was appointed a magistrate in 1946 and served on the bench at Wath court until 1981, acting as Chairman from 1975.

He was for many years press correspondent for Dishforth, reporting local events in the 'Ripon Gazette' and the 'Darlington & Stockton Times'. He was a governor of both Dishforth village and Dishforth Airfield schools - the latter for over 40 years.

He was awarded the MBE in 1954 and the CBE in 1964. He died in June 1994 at the age of 82, when his popularity and the esteem in which he was held was evidenced by the large attendance at his funeral in Dishforth.

Custodial history:

Presented by Mrs Ada Brocklebank, Green Pastures, Dishforth, Thirsk, North Yorkshire, 1 Sep 1994

Description:

This small collection is dominated by papers relating to Jack Brocklebank's work as a trade union organiser and leader with involvement in the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers. There are several files relating to his period as a member of the Executive Committee of the NUAAW (later Agricultural & Allied Trade Group of the T & GWU) between 1970 and 1983 (U DBK/1-6). Other files and volumes cover meetings (with some financial accounts) of District Organisers (U DBK/7), the York County Committee (U DBK/8-15), the North Yorkshire District (U DBK/16-20) and the East Riding District (U DBK/21-22).

Going further afield, his work with the Agricultural Executive Committee for the North Riding of Yorkshire is documented in file U DBK/23, whilst that for various Agricultural Wages Committees (for the East, West and North Ridings, including South Yorkshire) is at U DBK/24-28. There is one file relating to the North East England Advisory Committee of the Forestry Commission, dating from the 1970s.

Two files at U DBK/30-31 cover his association with the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (both as Liaison Officer, and member and later chairman of the Northern Regional Panel), whilst his membership of the Central Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government is covered in files U DBK/32-33. The former files include several letters from Agriculture Ministers Fred Peart, Cledwyn Hughes, John Silkin and Jim Prior between 1968 and 1971. The latter files include letters from several Ministers for Housing & Local Government between 1953 and 1970 including Harold Macmillan, Henry Brooke, Anthony Greenwood, and Paul Channon.

There are North Pennines Rural Development Board papers between 1968 and 1971 at U DBK/34-36, and one file relating to the War Agricultural Emergency Committee for the North Riding of Yorkshire (1945-48) at U DBK/37. Another file, U DBK/38, includes some papers of Wath Rural District Council between 1948 and 1972.

The section of miscellaneous files and individual items includes several files which contain numerous press cuttings, articles, speeches, and some letters to the press by Jack Brocklebank (U DBK/42-45) and a small number of personal letters (U DBK/47), plus various items relating to Joan Maynard (U DBK/49). An artificial file of biographical items is to be found at U DBK/54.

Finally, papers relating to the estate of Arthur and Mary Jane Tweedy, of Kirkby Fleetham, of which Jack Brocklebank was executor, are at U DBK/55.

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Arrangement:

- U DBK/1-22 National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers: sections and committees, 1922-1990
U DBK/23-54 Miscellaneous, 1919-1980
U DBK/55 Arthur Other Tweedy and Mary Jane Tweedy, 1894-1973

Extent: 1.5 linear metres

Related material:

- Papers of Bert Hazell [U DX246]
Papers of Frank Robinson [U DX245]
Draft biography of Joan Maynard MP [U DX248]

Access conditions: Access will be granted to any accredited reader

Copyright: Copyright is held by Ada Brocklebank; TGWU

Language: English

U DBK/1	File. Executive Committee Minutes 1977 & Other Papers (Union) of the National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers 1 file	1970-1978
U DBK/2	File. Executive Committee minutes and Reports of the National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers 1 file	1975-1980
U DBK/3	File. Biennial Papers 1978 of the National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers 1 file	1978
U DBK/4	File. Union Executive Committee Papers of the National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers 1 file	1978-1983

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U DBK/5	File. Minutes of Executive Committee Meetings 1980-82 of the National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers Includes papers relating to the Union's merger with the Transport & General Workers' Union, to become the Agricultural & Allied Workers National Trade Group of the TGWU. 1 file	1979-1982
U DBK/6	File. Correspondence of the Regional Office, Leeds, of the Agricultural & Allied Workers National Trade Group 1 file	1985-1990
U DBK/7	File. National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers District Organisers: Organisers Association Includes: a) Minutes of meetings (Feb 1944-Feb 1968) [Incomplete, many gaps] b) File. 'District Organisers Association and Conditions of Employment' (Aug 1942-Jan 1943) c) Correspondence and miscellaneous papers (1950-1970) 1 file	1942-1970
U DBK/8	File. National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers: Yorkshire County Committee Quarterly Fees from Head Office 1 file	Aug 1922- Aug 1946
U DBK/9	File. Yorkshire County Committee Correspondence of the National Union of Agricultural Workers Includes: a) Circular letter from R. B. Walker, General Secretary of the NUAW, to branch secretaries in Yorkshire, concerning the W. Coates versus Watson case (the sacking of a Bridlington branch member) (2 Dec 1927) b) Papers regarding a Conference of Yorkshire Branch Chairmen and Secretaries (28 Oct 1944) c) Correspondence (chiefly with the East Yorkshire Branch) regarding the payment of wages on Fridays instead of Saturdays (Nov-Dec 1944) 1 file	1927-1944
U DBK/10	File. County Committee Reports of the National Union of Agricultural Workers Yorkshire County Committee 1 file	Jul 1946- Oct 1958
U DBK/11	National Union of Agricultural Workers Yorkshire Region: Quarterly accounts Covers the Malton, Northallerton, South Yorkshire, Cleveland, York Districts. 1 volume	1946-1948

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U DBK/12	File. National Union of Agricultural Workers York County Committee: Wages Structure Sub-Committee Includes miscellaneous papers on wages structure. 1 file	1955-1969
U DBK/13	Programme. National Union of Agricultural Workers, Yorkshire County Conferences: County Committee Report and Resolutions Regarding meetings held in York on 20 Oct 1956 and in Leeds on 3 Nov 1956. 1 item	1956
U DBK/14	File. Papers regarding the building of a permanent National Union of Agricultural Workers pavilion at the Yorkshire Showground, Harrogate, in June 1962 Plan and correspondence (chiefly with Bert Hazell, District Organiser). Includes typescript signed letters (3) from Harold Collison (General Secretary NUAW) (6 Nov 1959, 29 Feb 1960, 5 May 1960). 1 file	1959-1965
U DBK/15	Programme. National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers, County of Yorkshire Regarding Golden Jubilee Celebrations in Selby. 1 item	3 Aug 1968
U DBK/16	National Union of Agricultural Workers North Yorkshire Region: Branch income 1 volume	1943-1953
U DBK/17	File. National Union of Agricultural Workers: Annual Rally Guisborough 1958 1 file	1958

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U DBK/18	<p>National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers North Yorkshire District: Miscellaneous papers Includes: a) Correspondence, including: (i) typescript signed letter from A. T. Bourne - Arton MP (12 Apr 1964); (ii) typescript signed letter from Joan Maynard (Sep 1964); (iii) autograph signed letter from Frank Robinson (9 Jan 1969); (iv) typescript signed letter from Reginald N. Bottini (14 Apr 1970) b) Programme. NUAW Annual Conference (6 Oct 1951) c) Programme. NUAW North Yorkshire District, Golden Jubilee Celebrations, Northallerton (30 Jun 1956) d) Programme. NUAW North Yorkshire District, Annual Rally, Guisborough (19 Jul 1958) e) Election literature (Jack Brocklebank), North Riding County Council, Topcliffe Division (1964-1967) f) Programme. NUAW North Yorkshire District, Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, Thirsk (28 May 1966) g) Reports by Jack Brocklebank to NUAW North Yorkshire District (Nov 1969 and Nov 1970) h) Papers regarding the Government's White Paper 'In Place of Strife: a policy for industrial relations' (1969) i) Address (by Jack Brocklebank) to West Yorkshire County Conference (3pp.) (13 Feb 1971) 1 file</p>	1951-1971
U DBK/19	<p>File. National Union of Agricultural & Allied Workers Includes: a) National Union of Agricultural & Agricultural Workers North Yorkshire District news letter (by Jack Brocklebank) (Sep 1951, 1953, Oct 1956, 1959-1970) b) NUAW Dorset Bulletin, Nos. 114-121 (May-Dec 1962) 1 file</p>	1951-1970
U DBK/20	<p>File. National Union of Agricultural Workers North Yorkshire District: Miscellaneous papers Includes agenda, papers, receipts, etc. 1 file</p>	1961-1968
U DBK/21	<p>File. Papers regarding working hours of agricultural workers and attempt by employers to impose a 12 hour working day 1 file</p>	1922
U DBK/22	<p>Handbill. National Union of Agricultural Workers, East Yorkshire District Regarding Golden Jubilee Mass Rally at the Recreation Ground in Driffield. 1 item</p>	16 Sep 1956

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U DBK/23	North Riding of Yorkshire Agricultural Executive Committee Annual reports for the years ending: a) 31 Mar 1948 b) 31 Mar 1950 c) 31 Mar 1960 d) 31 Mar 1970 4 items	1948-1970
U DBK/24	File. Yorkshire: East, West & North Ridings Wages Committees Regarding standing orders. 1 file	1919-1938
U DBK/25	File. North Riding Wages Orders Includes Agricultural Wages Board (England & Wales) and wages orders relating to the North Riding of Yorkshire. c.100 items	1924-1970
U DBK/26	File. North Riding Wages Committee of the North Riding of Yorkshire Agricultural Wages Committee Dates: Mar 1935, 1943-1944, 1946-1947. 1 file	1935-1947
U DBK/27	File. South and West Yorks Wages Committee of the West Riding of Yorkshire Agricultural Wages Committee Includes minutes (incomplete), correspondence and other papers. 1 file	1944-1973
U DBK/28	File. West Riding Wages Committee of the South Yorkshire & West Yorkshire Agricultural Wages Committee Includes papers and relative acts of Parliament for 1938-1955. 1 file	1938-1990
U DBK/29	File. Forestry Advisory Committee of the Forestry Commission, North East (England) Advisory Committee 1 file	1972-1978

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U DBK/30	<p>File. Liaison Officer and Regional Panel for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Minister's Liaison Officers and County Agricultural Executive Committees</p> <p>Miscellaneous papers, including typescript signed letters from the following Ministers (chiefly concerning Jack Brocklebank's appointment to the Northern Regional Panel, of which he was later chairman):</p> <p>a) Fred Peart (3) (10 Apr 1968, 29 Jul 1975, 22 Jul 1976)</p> <p>b) Cledwyn Hughes (11 Apr 1968)</p> <p>c) John Silkin (3) (21 Jul 1977, 9 Nov 1977, 24 May 1978)</p> <p>d) Jim Prior (2) (29 Jul 1970, 16 Jan 1971)</p> <p>1 file</p>	1964-1978
U DBK/31	<p>File. Ministry of Agriculture White Papers etc. for the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Northern Regional Panel</p> <p>1 file</p>	1977-1978
U DBK/32	<p>File. Housing Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government</p> <p>Includes:</p> <p>a) Correspondence, including typescript signed letters from the following Ministers, chiefly regarding Jack Brocklebank's membership of the Committee: (i) Harold Macmillan MP (3) (16 Mar 1953, 20 Oct 1954, 9 Nov 1954); (ii) Henry Brooke MP (2) (11 Nov 1958, 6 Sep 1961); (iii) Anthony Greenwood MP (11 Aug 1967); (iv) Paul Channon MP (7 Aug 1970)</p> <p>b) Typescript signed letter from W. Holmes, General Secretary, NUAW, to W. E. Crawford, Yorkshire District Organiser of the NUAW: memorandum on rural housing to be submitted to the CHAC Rural Housing Sub-Committee (2 Nov 1936)</p> <p>c) CHAC minutes (with gaps) (1953-1962)</p> <p>1 file</p>	1936-1967
U DBK/33	<p>File. Housing Reports, etc.</p> <p>Miscellaneous reports regarding tied housing.</p> <p>1 file</p>	1975-1981
U DBK/34	<p>File. Northern Pennines Rural Development Board</p> <p>Includes typescript signed letter from Jim Prior, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (19 Jan 1971).</p> <p>1 file</p>	1967-1971
U DBK/35	<p>File. Rural Development Board Papers of the Northern Pennines Rural Development Board</p> <p>Includes minutes and correspondence.</p> <p>1 file</p>	1968-1971

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U DBK/36	File. Rural Development Board Papers of the Northern Pennines Rural Development Board Includes minutes and correspondence. 1 file	1968-1970
U DBK/37	File. WAEC's/Appointments, etc. of the War Agricultural Emergency Committee, North Riding of Yorkshire, Executive Committee 1 file	1945-1948
U DBK/38	File. Wath Rural District Council 1 file	1948-1972
U DBK/39	Printed Report. National Conference on Agriculture, held at the Mansion House and the Surveyors' Institution, London 1 item	25-26 Feb 1929
U DBK/40	Circular letter. W. Holmes, General Secretary, National Union of Agricultural Workers, to Executive Committee members and District Organisers Regarding evidence to Holidays with Pay Committee being put forward by the National Farmers' Union. Includes copy of NFU memorandum (17 Sep 1937). 1 item	Sep-Oct 1937
U DBK/41	Women's Land Army, North Riding of Yorkshire: Conditions of Employment (including wages) 1 item	Aug 1944
U DBK/42	Box file. Press cuttings, speeches, statistics relating to Jack Brocklebank Includes election material and relative correspondence and typescript signed letter from Joan Maynard to Jack Brocklebank (20 Apr 1955). c.200 items	1944-1958
U DBK/43	Press cuttings and speeches relating to Jack Brocklebank Includes some miscellaneous correspondence. 1 file	1958-1970
U DBK/44	File. Speeches, Press cuttings etc relating to Jack Brocklebank Topics include tied housing, common ownership and local government. c.40 items	1967-1978

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U DBK/45	<p>File. Papers, speeches and pamphlets relating to Jack Brocklebank Includes copies of speeches, newspaper articles and letters. Also includes a pamphlet of 'The case for nationalising land', by Jack Brocklebank, Nicholas Kaldor, Joan Maynard, Robert Neild, Oliver Stutchbury (London: Campaign for Nationalising Land) (c.1973). 1 file</p>	1968-1979
U DBK/46	<p>Loan Pass Book of the National Union of Agricultural Workers in account with Malton & Norton Co-operative Society Ltd 1 volume</p>	Mar 1951- Apr 1953
U DBK/47	<p>Miscellaneous letters to Jack Brocklebank Includes: a) Autograph signed letter from Frank [Robinson] giving congratulations following National Union of Agricultural Workers demonstration at Northallerton on 30 Jun-2 Jul 1956 b) Autograph signed letter from Frank [Robinson] regarding his defeat in the East Riding County Council election and his decision not to run as a Labour Party candidate (2 Jul 1956) c) Typescript signed letter from Joan Maynard (on behalf of Northallerton & District Trades Council) giving congratulations following NUAW demonstration at Northallerton on 30 Jun-26 Jul 1956 d) Autograph signed letter from Arthur Clegg, enclosing cutting about Thomas Slingsby Duncombe (1796-1861) (13 Jun 1982) e) Typescript signed letter from Dennis Skinner MP, regarding his selection of records when appearing on the BBC radio programme 'Desert Island Discs' (14 Feb 1990) 1 bundle</p>	1956-1990
U DBK/48	<p>File. Papers concerning the effects of pesticides and sprays on the health of farmers ('Farmer's lung') Includes correspondence chiefly with Joan Maynard and Steve Wilson (York), District Organiser. 1 file</p>	1965-1967

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U DBK/49	<p>Papers relating to Joan Maynard Comprising: a) Press release regarding agricultural wages, conditions for forestry workers, and tied cottages (c.1967) b) Election handbill. North Riding County Council, Thirsk Division, Joan Maynard, Labour Candidate (11 Apr 1967) c) Election handbill. Thirsk Rural District Council, Parish of Sowerby, Joan Maynard, Labour Candidate (5 May 1970) d) Press cuttings (2) (Mar 1981-Oct 1983) 5 items</p>	1967-1983
U DBK/50	<p>File. Farm Management Association Conference, University of Warwick, 30 Jun 1971 Includes a paper by Jack Brocklebank, 'Management of Labour: Labour's response' (1971). 1 file</p>	1971
U DBK/51	<p>Papers concerning truancy at Thirsk School and its possible impact on Dishforth school pupils 1 bundle</p>	Aug-Sep 1975
U DBK/52	<p>File. Yorkshire Rural Community Council. Course at Scarborough Includes a paper by Jack Brocklebank on 'The future of local government' (incomplete) (1978). 1 file</p>	May 1978
U DBK/53	<p>Papers regarding the Labour Party's Wembley Conference, the subsequent Commission of Enquiry, and the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy 1 bundle</p>	1980
U DBK/54	<p>File. Miscellaneous autobiographical and biographical notes on Jack Brocklebank Includes: a) Order of service, funeral of Jack Brocklebank (Jun 1994) b) 'John Brocklebank' by Joan Kirk, daughter (2pp.) (1994) c) Obituaries of Jack Brocklebank (1994) 1 file</p>	1980-1994

U DBK/55

File. 'Arthur Tweedy'

1894-1973

Includes:

- a) Papers regarding the administration of the estate of Mary Jane Tweedy (executor Jack Brocklebank), including: (i) Envelope containing birth certificate of Mary Jane Caygill (b. 3 Dec 1894), marriage certificate of Arthur Other Tweedy farmer, and Mary Jane Cargill, both of Kirkby Fleetham, North Yorkshire (14 Aug 1933), death certificate of Mary Jane Tweedy (29 Nov 1967); (ii) Grant of probate, with photocopy of the Will of Mary Jane Tweedy (29 Nov 1967)
 - b) Will of Arthur Other Tweedy of Kirkby Fleetham (9 Aug 1956)
 - c) Copy. Will of Arthur Other Tweedy (10 Dec 1966)
 - d) Will of Arthur Other Tweedy (29 Jul 1971)
 - e) Autobiographical notes by A. O. Tweedy (17 pages) (n.d.)
 - f) 'A history of Kirkby Fleetham Parish and Tales that were told', by Arthur O. Tweedy. Signed by the author (4 Dec 1969)
 - g) 'Bulletin of the Cleveland & Teesside Local History Society', No. 21 (Summer 1973), including 'Recollections of a farm worker', by A. Tweedy, pp.1-6.
- 1 file