

Yorkshire Luddism - Timeline

11 November 1807	Orders in Council issued forbidding trade with France or her allies. Badly damaged Britain's trade and economy.
1809	Repeal of legislation controlling woollen cloth manufacture and apprenticeships which protected skilled handworkers.
5 February 1811	George, Prince of Wales named Prince Regent due to the insanity of his father, George III.
11 March 1811	Outbreak of first Luddite disturbances in Nottinghamshire with the smashing of stocking frames.
15 January 1812	First indication of Luddism in Yorkshire: magistrates dispersed a crowd gathered in Leeds, some of the men having blackened faces. One was arrested and the magistrates learned of a plot to attack machinery.
19 January 1812	Oatlands Mill near Woodhouse Carr in Leeds, which housed gig-mills found on fire. Arson suspected.
7 February 1812	Charles Dickens born.
22 February 1812	Assault on the workshop of Joseph Hirst of Marsh in Huddersfield in which shearing-frames destroyed. Also attack on the premises of James Balderson of Crosland Moor.
26 February 1812	A similar attack in Huddersfield on dressing-shop of William Hinchliffe of Leymoor. All machinery destroyed. Committee of manufacturers and merchants formed to endeavour to suppress Luddites.
March 1812	Continuing attacks in the Huddersfield area including Slaithwaite, Honley and Crosland Moor with the destruction of machines and other property. Manufacturers' Committee offers 100 guineas reward for arrest of Luddites.
15 March 1812	Dickenson, Carr & Go's workshop in Leeds attacked and cloth destroyed. The same occurred at Vickerman's establishment, Taylor Hill, Huddersfield.
20 March 1812	Machine-breaking is made a capital offence.
23-25 March 1812	Attack on shearing-mill of William Thompson & Bros at Rawdon, near Leeds and dozens of shears destroyed and fine woollen cloth damaged.
1 April 1812	Smith's workshop near Holmfirth has all his dressing-frames and shears damaged. At Honley, James Brook has new shearing-frame destroyed.
9 April 1812	Assault on the Horbury Mill of Joseph Foster near Wakefield. Armed crowd, of between 300 to 600, destroyed gig-mills, cropping shears and frames, and cloth. Damage amounted to about £700.
11 April 1812	Unsuccessful attack on the Rawfolds Mill of William Cartwright at Liversedge by around 150 Luddites mainly from Huddersfield and Halifax. Two Luddites, Samuel Hartley and John Booth later died of their wounds. A decisive setback for Luddism.
14-15 April 1812	Food riots in Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley.
18 April 1812	Failed attempt to murder William Cartwright.
21 April 1812	Flogging of soldier who refused to fire on the Luddites during the siege of Rawfolds Mill. Cartwright himself intervenes to stop the punishment after 25 strokes. The full 300 strokes would probably have resulted in death.
27 April 1812	Huddersfield. Assassination of William Horsfall, owner of shearing-frames and fervent, sworn enemy of the Luddites.
May 1812	General Maitland dispatched to take command of the Luddite areas.
11 May 1812	Assassination of Prime Minister, Spencer Perceval who had brought in the death penalty for machine-breaking. The assassin, though, had no connections with the Luddites. Lord Liverpool becomes Prime Minister in June.
June 1812	Continuation of arms raids but targeted more at common robbery.

16 June 1812	Repeal of the Orders in Council.
18 June 1812	Britain's biggest customer, the United States, declares war over trading grievances.
July 1812	Illegal oath-taking made subject to the death penalty. Magistrates empowered to enter premises in search of weapons and to disperse crowds without the necessity of reading the riot act.
July 1812	Still some robberies, but substantial order being restored. Throughout the summer 1,000 troops are stationed in Huddersfield.
18 August 1812	Riot of women and boys led by 'Lady Ludd' at Corn Market in Leeds, also food shops threatened. Riots in Sheffield against flour and meal sellers.
3 September 1812	Destruction of gig-mill at Southowram near Halifax. Shearing frames destroyed at Gildersome near Morley.
October 1812	Napoleon begins his retreat from Moscow.
2 January 1813	Trial of Luddites starts at York Castle. George Mellor, William Thorpe and Thomas Smith tried and found guilty of the murder of William Horsfall. Five men were being convicted for the attack on Rawfolds.
8 January 1813	Mellor, Thorpe and Smith executed for the murder of William Horsfall, as were later the five from the Rawfolds assault. A further nine Luddites were put to death for stealing arms or money and a further 6 were transported for giving in receiving illegal oaths. The Luddite rising in Yorkshire is over.
March 1813	Bulk of militia withdrawn from Yorkshire.
1820	Cropping by hand almost extinct.