

Term Used in Years Gone By	Modern Day Equivalent
Wadsetter	One who holds pledge or mortgage as satisfaction for debt or obligation
Wager	Moulder of clay for pots, etc.
Waggoner	One who looked after the welfare of and worked the horses (Most common in Kent, Midland Counties, Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.
Wain-men	Waggoners
Wainwright	Wagon maker
Waister	Man stationed in waist of ship; Vagabond; Person of bad reputation
Wait	Night watchman
Walesman	Worker in textile or basket making
Walker	Fuller mainly found in the North of England and Scotland); Forester
Walters	Women who rake the salt out of the leads at salt-works
Wantalius	Glover
Wantcatcher	Mole Catcher
Wanter	Mole-catcher
Warner	Warrener
Warper	One who forms the threads into the warp
Warrenarius	Gamekeeper; Warrener
Washer-woman	Laundress
Washman	Beggar who solicited charity with sham sores or fractures; One who applied the coating when making tinplate
Watcher	One who attends upon the sick during the night.
Water-gilder	One who gilds metallic surfaces usually with mercury amalgam
Water-leader	Water-carrier
Waterman	One who rows boats; Oarsman; Sculler
Water-workers	makers of meadow-drains and wet ditches especially in Norfolk
Wax-chandler	Maker of or dealer in candles
Wayman	Parish official or overseer in charge of highways; Surveyor of repairs; Keeper of private roads
Waywarden	Parish official or overseer in charge of highways; Surveyor of repairs; Keeper of private roads
Web	Weaver
Webber	Weaver
Webster	Weaver
Wedlock	Wife
Wedman	Husband
Welder	Occupant; Owner; Ruler (All used in Ireland)
Wellmaster	Officer appointed by the court leet who was responsible for the supply of clean and adequate water
Wenche	Girl; Maid servant; Baby girl
West	Stye on the eye
Wet Nurse	One employed to suckle another woman's child
Wetglover	Maker of leather gloves
Wetter	One who wet blocks with ink in the printed trade
Wharfinger	Man who owns or has care of a wharf
Wheelwright	Maker of wheels for carriages and farm carts etc..
Wherryman	One in charge of a wherry
Whie cooper	One who made tin barrels
Whig	Horse drover (Scotland); Politician between 1600s and 1850s (became the Liberal Party)
Whiparse	Schoolmaster
Whip-jack	Vagabond who begged for alms as a distressed seaman
Whipland	Land measured out by a whip's length when ploughed
Whipster	Bleacher (cloth trade)
Whisgig	To have fun; To lark about
Whitear	Cleanser of hides
Whitebaker	Baker of white bread
Whitesmith	Worker in "white" iron; Tinsmith (especially creating dairy utensils); One who polished and finished metal goods as distinguished from one who forged them; Whitster

Terms and Occupations - W

Whitester	Bleacher of Linen; Whitesmith
Whitewing	Street sweeper
Whitower	Maker of harness or saddle; collar maker; Ealier one who turned skins into white leather
Whitster	Bleacher of Linen; Whitesmith
Whittawer	Maker of harness or saddle; collar maker; Ealier one who turned skins into white leather
Whopstraw	Country bumpkin
Wich-waller	Salt-boiler main in Cheshire
Wicker	Osier
Wickerman	Osier
Widow	Female having buried a husband and not remarried
Widower	Male having buried a wife and not remarried
Widver	Widower
Wife-modir	Mothr-in-law
Wifler	Huckster
Winder	One who wound 2, 3, or more skeins together to make a compound thread; Woman who has the charge of a corpse between death and burial
Window-peeper	District surveyor of taxes
Winter-cricket	Tailor
Wire drawer	One who draws metal into wire; Wire-miller
Wire miller	One who draws metal into wire; Wire drawer
Wish	Stye on the eye
Wisp	Stye on the eye
Witnesses	Godparents; Those who saw an incident and recounted such to the authorities
Wood-collier	Charcoal burner
Wood-collyer	Charcoal burner; Wood-collier
Wood-hacker	Woodman (Mainly used in Lincolnshire)
Woodman	Carpenter (Mainly used in Derbyshire); Forester; Lumber-jack; Woodward; Wood-reeve
Wood-reeve	Forester; Woodward
Woodward	One having charge of growing timber; Forest keeper; Wood-reeve
Wool-comber	One who prepares wool before the manufacture of worsted, serges, etc..
Wool-driver	One who buys wool and carries it to market
Woolman	Dealer in wool
Wool-piecener	One who joins broken threads
Wool-stapler	One who deals in wool; buys, grades and sells to anufacturers
Wool-winder	One who makes up the wool into bundles for sale
Wooset	Skimmington Ride (Public disapproval of marital infidelities - rough justice)
Wright	Manufacturer such as a Wheelwright, Cartwright etc..