

CORRESPONDENCE

Letters intended for publication in *LPS* should be sent to Kevin Schürer, *LPS*, Department of History, University of Essex, Colchester, CO4 3SQ.

Editors' note

LPS readers are reminded that the editorial board is always prepared to offer advice on subjects within the scope of *LPS*. Sometimes queries which have been raised are discussed in print in this section of the journal but there are many others which are not published, so if you think we can help do not hesitate to contact us.

Aldenham and Hertfordshire militia lists

Dear Sir,

There are two points on which I would seek your assistance:

1. Have the family reconstitution studies by W. Newman Brown for Aldenham, Hertfordshire, been published?

2. Dr Steve Hindle has compared the population figures (using the appropriate multipliers) for Hertfordshire parishes based on the figures for the lay subsidy of 1524/5 and the hearth tax of the 1660s. Hertfordshire has by far and away the most complete set of militia ballot lists from 1758, as you probably know, and I would like to be able to calculate populations from those figures for various parishes in the county, especially for the early years when they covered men between 18 and 50. Has anyone worked out an appropriate multiplier?

This information will probably be relevant to the study of the Fleet marriages of Hertfordshire people which I am undertaking.

I shall appreciate any information and/or advice you can give me

Yours faithfully
F. J. Parker

Editors' comment

To answer, first, the question about the work of W. Newman Brown, much of his work on the detailed reconstitution of the parish of Aldenham unfortunately remained unpublished before his death. An article entitled 'Wider reconstitution' was published in *LPS*, 7 (1971), together with a note on linking parish register information in *LPS* 22 (1979), and a chapter, 'The receipt of poor

relief and family situation: Aldenham, Hertfordshire, 1630–1690', in R. M. Smith ed. *Land, kinship and life-cycle* (Cambridge, 1984). All of his manuscript material relating to Aldenham was left to the Cambridge Group and can be consulted there, by arrangement with the Group librarian ('phone 01223 333185). The material was also used extensively by Fiona Newall in her Cambridge PhD thesis, 'Socio-economic influences on the demography of Aldenham: an exploration of the techniques and applications of family reconstitution' (1985). This can also be consulted in the library of the Cambridge Group. Dr Newall also published an article arising from her thesis work: 'Social mobility in the population of Aldenham, 1600–1800', in D. Jones-Baker ed. *Hertfordshire in History* (Hertfordshire Local History Council, 1991).

As to the question of multipliers for use in conjunction with the Militia Ballot Lists, we do not know of any specific figures used previously. However, it should not prove too difficult to derive proxy figures. Using Wrigley and Schofield's *Population History of England* as a guide, one might expect those aged between 18 and 50 to account for around 47–9 per cent in the period in question. Of these, the male population might have been about 22.4 per cent of the total. Using these figures would mean that one would have to multiply a given male population aged 18–50 in the range of 4.167 to 4.545 to gain an estimated total population. These figures are, of course, based on national aggregates and one might therefore need to adjust the proportions accordingly to take account of any significant local variation, as well as variations in the age bounds recorded in various the source documents.

Migrating families

Dear Sir,

I have been encouraged to write by the offer of advice in LPS 56.

Three years ago, I was a student at London University, studying for a Diploma in Genealogy and the History of the Family, and seriously considered relating my project to material I had found which suggested an interesting pattern of migration (in the event, I did a project on the accounts of a Suffolk blacksmith).

I came across the material while doing genealogical research aimed at establishing the relationship between my maternal grandmother and a 'cousin', who styled himself Frederick Middleweek-Poole. I have not succeeded in establishing any relationship between them. He was almost certainly the illegitimate son of Charlotte Middleweek, who was 'adopted' by a Poole family.

However, in the belief (from family folklore) that he was the son of a Frederick Middleweek-Poole (or just Middleweek) and Sarah (formerly Oliver, sister to my great-grandmother), I searched the St Catherine's registers for such a marriage. In doing so, I was struck by the locations of the marriages and noted them all. (An abstract is present in the table below),

Virtually all of these occur in locations north of Plymouth, in London, or in places in between. This suggests a pattern in which the Middleweeks originated in Devon, in villages north of Plymouth, and over several decades migrated east, many finishing up in London. Would this be worth a study, using censuses and perhaps parish registers, to try and establish the pattern of migration over time, possibly also looking at the occupations taken by the migrants?

Yours faithfully
Brian Strong

Middleweek/Middlewick Marriages, 1850–86

Date	Surname	First name	Registration district	Reference number	
3/1850	Middleweek	William	Tiverton	X	423
6/1850	Middleweek	Robert	Bristol	XI	207
12/1851	Middleweek	Eliza	Dorchester	VIII	93
3/1852	Middlewick	Ann Maria	Lewisham	1d	683
	Middlewick	Josiah	Newton Abbott	5b	219
6/1852	Middlewick	John	Plymouth	5b	426
	Middlewick	Sophia	Exeter	5b	153
	Middleweek	George	St Geo. Han. Sq.	1a	381
3/1856	Middleweeke	John	Exeter	5b	168
	Middleweek	Maria	Crediton	5b	671
	Middlewick	Elizabeth Sarah	Kensington	1a	142
	Middleweek	Sarah	Exeter	5b	159

Editors' comment

It is clear from the article by Pooley and Turnbull, published in this issue of the journal, that the analysis of family-based life histories can add greatly to our understanding of migratory patterns in the past. Consequently, the study is certainly worth pursuing. It may also prove useful to refer to the article by Roy Prideaux, 'Descending lines and the search for connections in an expanding population', published in *LPS*, 36 (1986).