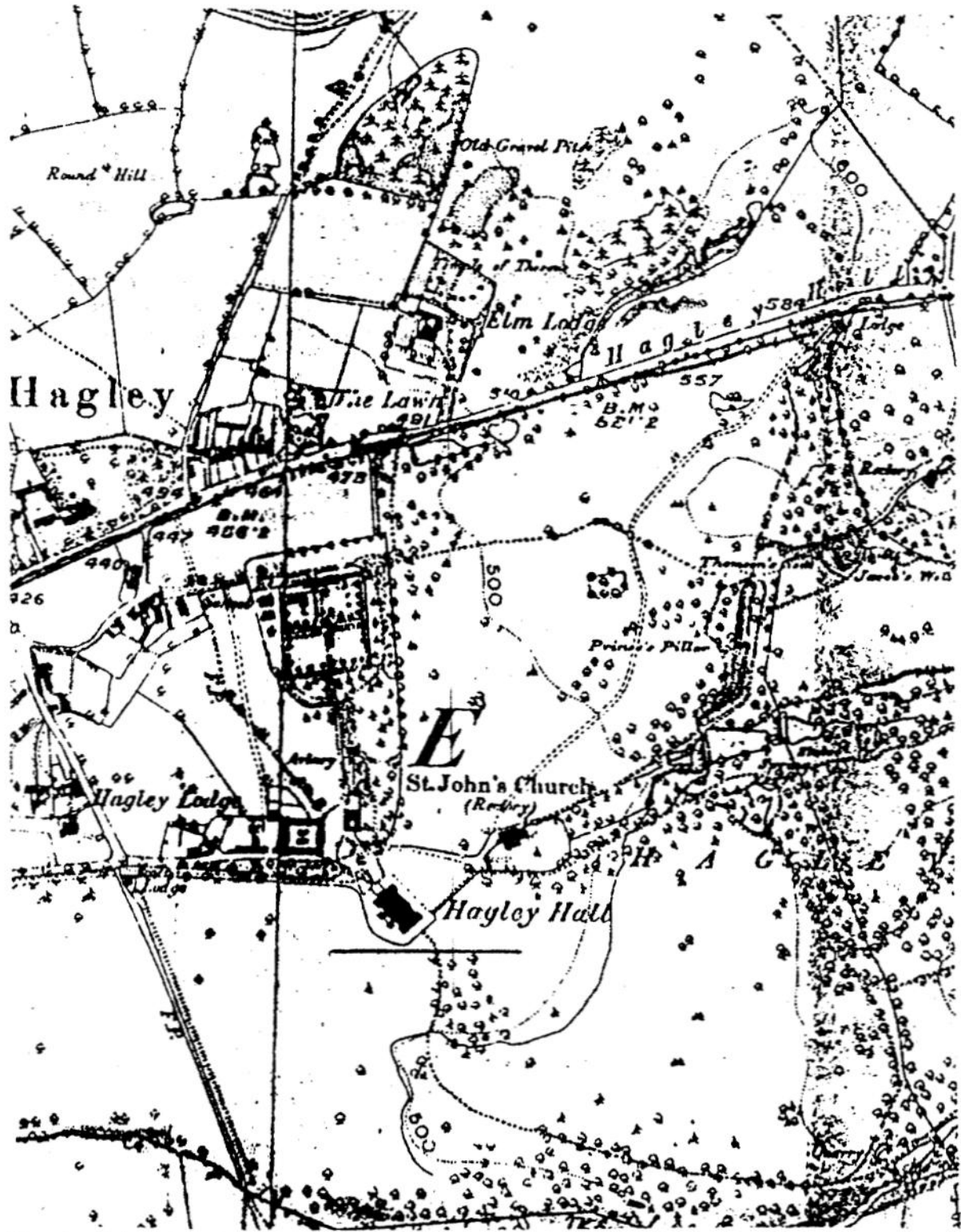


HAGLEY HISTORICAL AND FIELD SOCIETY
NO 1 IN A SERIES OF OCCASIONAL PAPERS



Reproduced from the 1886 Ordnance Survey Map

HAGLEY AND BLAKEDOWN IN THE 19TH CENTURY: SOME ASPECTS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING

JEAN PRITCHARD

This short publication is the first of what is hoped will be a series of Occasional Papers. This particular research was prompted by the Archaeology Group's project to record houses in Hagley and Blakedown dated before 1881.

The research also draws on the work of the group who transcribed the 1881 Census Returns some two years ago, and of the Hagley Parish Records Research Group who published a Study of Hagley Parish Records in 1985.

Jean Pritchard 1993

SOME STATISTICS FROM THE 1851 AND 1881 CENSUS RETURNS FOR HAGLEY (INCLUDING BLAKEDOWN) AND THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR POPULATION AND HOUSING

It is a well-known fact that Hagley has increased greatly in size in the second half of the 20th century. The evidence is there to be seen in housing developments and infills completed since the Second World War. There is also abundant evidence of Edwardian and inter-war housing. But somehow we tend to assume that before 1900 village population was small and stable. It was indeed smaller but Census Returns show there had been a steady rise throughout the 19th century:

1821	279 males	316 females	595 total
1851	458 males	477 females	935 total
1881	578 males	679 females	1257 total

Not all the increase was due to larger families or to longer life. Researchers in social history and demography are increasingly finding that village populations in the 19th century were more fluid than previously thought, with new inhabitants coming in and perhaps moving out again and older-established families leaving or dying out. Hagley Census Returns for 1851 and 1881 seem to bear this out. [1821 Returns do not give sufficient details].

The figures are not totally reliable because some members of the household, including the Head, could have been away from home on the night of the Census, but, based on 'Head of Household' only (i.e. not including the rest of the family) in 1851 about 1 in 4 were born in Hagley; in 1881 about 1 in 5. Adding Hagley-born wives (husbands not Hagley-born: and there were 8 of these in 1851 and 12 in 1881) the ratio becomes slightly smaller.

Addresses given by Enumerators were vague, but these are my findings for 1881:

Hagley (which at this time included Blakedown) was in the Superintendent Registrar's District of Bromsgrove; the Registrar's Sub-District of Bellbroughton; the Rural Sanitary District of Bromsgrove; and the Ecclesiastical Parish of St John's Hagley. It was divided into two districts for the purposes of the Census: Enumeration District No 2 and Enumeration District No 3.

Enumeration District No 2 (Enumerator Mr Beckley) covered:

'Part of the Parish of Hagley comprising all the Houses on each side of the Road leading from Stourbridge to Bromsgrove as far as the finger Post, and all the Houses on the East side of the said Road from the finger Post to the Lyttelton Arms, including part of the Village, Hagley Hall, the Castle, Birmingham Road, Hagley Hill, Broadmarsh and Wassell Grove'. [The Finger Post was at the junction of Stourbridge Road and Birmingham Road].

	No of Inhabited Houses	No of Heads of Household born in Hagley	No of Wives but <u>not</u> Husband born in Hagley
Stourbridge Road	34	8	1
'Hagley'	12	-	-
The Lodge	1	-	-
The Rectory	1	-	-
Hall Yard, Hagley	2	-	-
Hall Stables	2	-	-
Hagley Hall Laundry	1	-	-
Hagley Hall Garden	1	-	-
The Hall	1	-	- (family away)
The Castle	1	-	-
Hagley Hall Farm	1	-	1
Hagley Hill	10	2	-
Wassell Grove	5	2	1
Broadmarsh	5	4	-
Birmingham Road	26	2	-
Monument Hill	1	1	-
Monument Lane	3	1	-

The core of 'old' Hagley families was in Wassell Grove, Broadmarsh, Monument Lane and Monument Hill. In the other areas the older-established families were far outnumbered by newcomers.

Enumeration District No 3 (Enumerator Mr Wyatt) covered:

'That Part of the Parish of Hagley lying on the West side of the Road leading from the finger Post to the Lyttelton Arms, including part of the Village, the Brake, Blakedown, Stakenbridge, the Birches, Lower Hagley and Middle Foot Lane'. [Lower Hagley is now West Hagley; Middlefoot Lane is now Middlefield Lane; the 'Village' refers to part of 'top' Hagley and a few other scattered houses].

	No of Inhabited Houses	No of Heads of Household born in Hagley	No of Wives but not Husband born in Hagley
Village	20	4	3
The Birches	13	8	-
Brake	9	1	1
Lower Hagley	55	6	1
Stakenbridge	26	9	2
Blakedown	56	5	2

The percentage of Heads born in Hagley was greatest in The Birches and to some extent Stakenbridge. The large increases of Heads in Lower Hagley and Blakedown born outside the Parish were almost entirely due to the new housing developments. These houses can be identified by comparing the Ordnance Survey Map drawn up in 1881/1882 (published 1886) with the 1837/1838 Tithe Map. New housing also appears noticeably in Stourbridge Road in Enumerator District 2. See maps on pp3 & 4.

The lack of Hagley-born Heads of Household in the area round Hagley Hall and Birmingham Road is probably explained by the fact that many of the houses here were large and they attracted a fairly rapid turnover of domestic servants, who lived in the smaller houses (if they did not 'live-in' in the big houses).

Apart from Hagley Hall itself, the larger houses were becoming occupied by wealthy newcomers many, though not all, from industrial areas. For instance:

Glebe House, Birmingham Road. George Stewart Watson, aged 57. Solicitor and Registrar of County Court at Oldbury. Born Battersea. He lived with his wife, cook, parlourmaid, and housemaid. Only the housemaid was born in Hagley.

Elm Lodge. Henry J Hickman JP, aged 48. Owner of Fireclay Mines. Born Belbroughton. His son was born in Hagley, but his five servants were born elsewhere.

The Lawns. Henry R Wolrige, aged 50. Major and Adjutant. Born Devon. His wife, mother-in-law and four servants were born elsewhere.

Rockingham Hall. Henry Williams, aged 63. Magistrate and Iron Merchant. Born Wolverhampton. His wife was born in Aylesbury and his two daughters in West Bromwich. None of his eight servants was born in Hagley.

As families became settled in Hagley their children, of course, were Hagley-born. George King Harrison, aged 54, JP and Colliery Owner, was born in Liverpool. His wife Letitia was born in Bolton, but his three sons and two daughters were born in Hagley. His five servants were not.

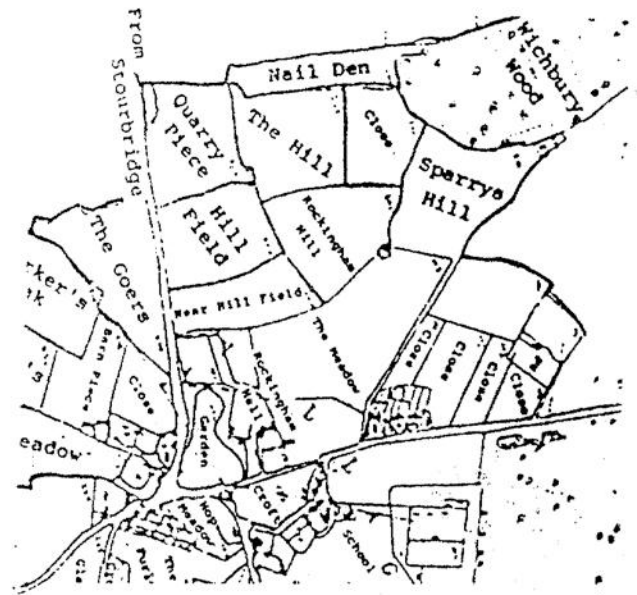
Michael P Grazebrook, 58, Ironmaster, was born at Kingswinford, his wife Mary Ann at Chatham, Kent, one child at Kingswinford, but four in Hagley. Only one of his four servants was born in Hagley.

From these cases alone, it is obvious that many people were moving into Hagley in the 19th century.

The overall picture seems to be that wealthy people moved in, perhaps to retire, whilst others were attracted by domestic or farming jobs, plus a few (especially in Enumeration District 3) who took up the new employment offered by the railway or were engaged in the older local industries of spade manufacture or other small metalwork. A varied community!

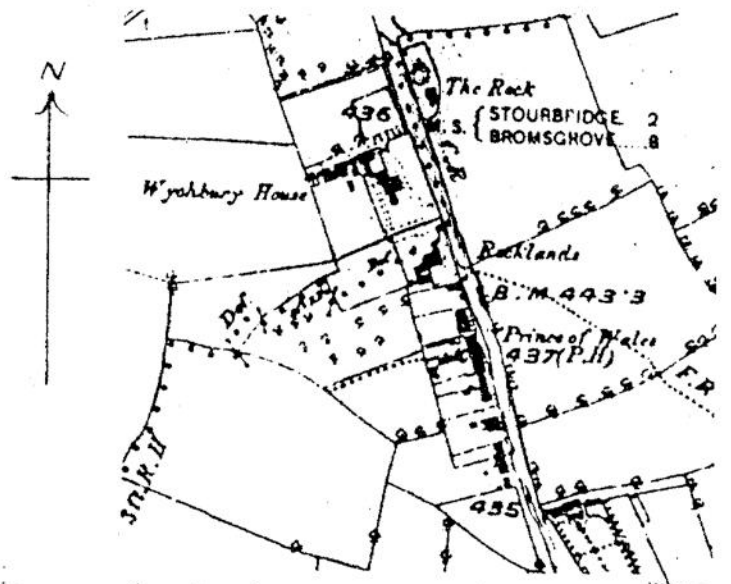
The increase in population was small compared with the growth of, say, Birmingham, or the Black Country industrial towns like Dudley or Wolverhampton, but 19th century Hagley was showing the effects of improved transport (the railway came in 1852) and its attraction as a desirable place of residence, rural, yet handy for the expanding towns.

1837/1838



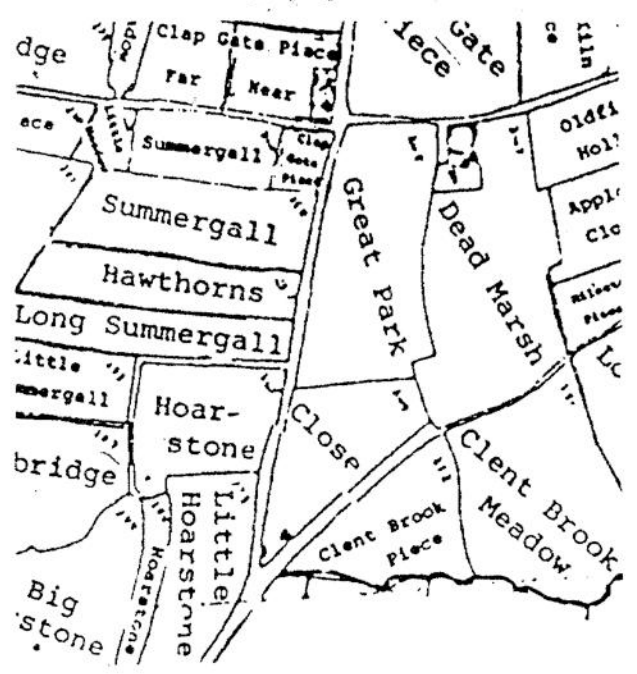
The main village was centred where the Stourbridge/Bromsgrove Road crossed the Kidderminster/Birmingham (Halesowen) Road

1881/1882



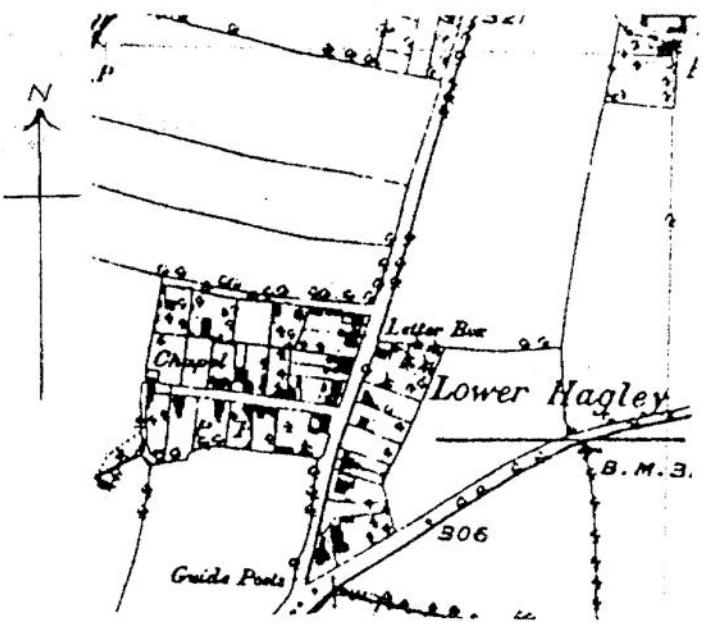
New houses were built on the field called 'The Goers' in Stourbridge Road. Wychbury House is in the Parish of Pedmore.

1837/1838



This shows the junction of Worcester Road and Kidderminster Road.

1881/1882



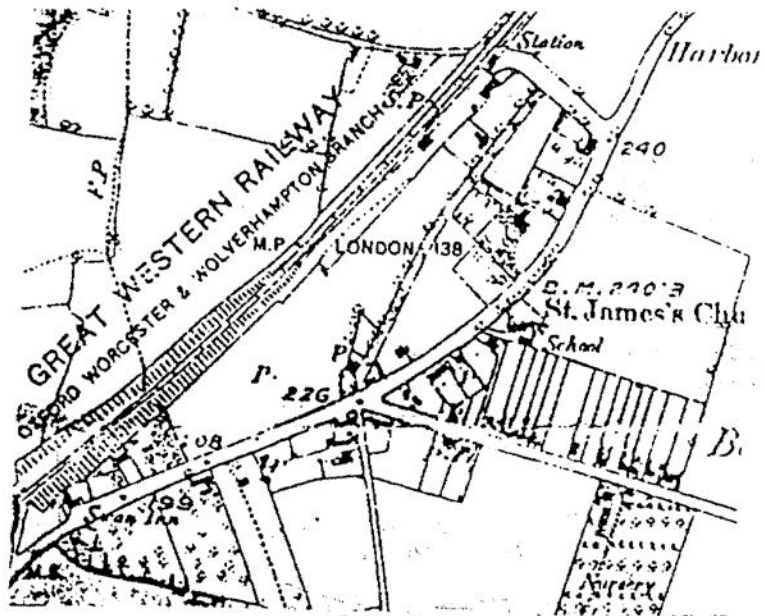
New houses were built on the field called 'Hoarstone' and part of the 'Close'.

1837/1838



BLAKEDOWN

1881/1882



The railway appears on the 1881/1882 map. New housing was mainly situated on the 'Allotment' and in the 'Close' near the Station.

SOURCES:

Census Returns for 1851 and 1881

Hagley Parish Records Research Group Publication: 'Hagley, Worcestershire, From the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century, Aspects of Hagley's History from the Parish Chest'. ed Roy Peacock. 1985

Maps: Tithe Map of Hagley, surveyed 1837, published 1838
Ordnance Survey 6", surveyed 1881/1882, published 1884/1886