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INTRODUCTION

This publication has grown out of a course of evening classes arranged by the Extramural Studies Department of the University of Birmingham. The idea of the course was derived from the concern of the Parochial Church Council of St. John Baptist, Hagley, for the condition of the documents in its care and especially for the older material in the Parish Chest. Although the contents were in sound condition, it was necessary to consider either improved methods of housing them or disposing of them to the local record office.

It seemed at the time that the course represented the last opportunity to study the contents of the Parish Chest on site. As a result, however, of the interest aroused by the classes, funds were raised by the parish to retain the records in approved conditions. The Parish Chest itself could no longer be used, but the contents are now housed in suitable metal cabinets.

Two sessions of classes were held between 1981 and 1983 and seventeen members have contributed to this publication. The members of the group showed not only a high degree of enthusiasm in attending the weekly classes but redoubled their efforts to write up their studies as contributions to this publication. Individual contributions have become somewhat submerged in the collective effort, but responsibility for the different sets of documentary material was as follows:

Early Registers	Mrs. Bronwen Pagett Mr. Tom Pagett
Inventories	Mrs. Pat Dunn
Poor Law Papers	Mr. Clive Corbett Mrs. Jean Pritchard Miss Rosemary Pritchard Dr. Lilian Wright
Apprenticeship Indentures	Mr. Martin Lister
Constables' Papers	Mrs. Mary Holder Mrs. Margaret Stephen
Militia Papers	Mrs. Pat Dunn
Social Structure in the Early Nineteenth Century	Mrs. Jean Pritchard
Tithe Map and Schedule	Mrs. Janet Cholmondeley

Census Material

Mr. Clive Corbett
Dr. John Gowar

Documents relating to the Parish

Mrs. Barbara Adams
Mr. Clive Corbett
Mr. Robert Deeley
Mr. Geoffrey Parkes
Mrs. Barbara Wormington

School Papers

Mrs. Sue Partridge

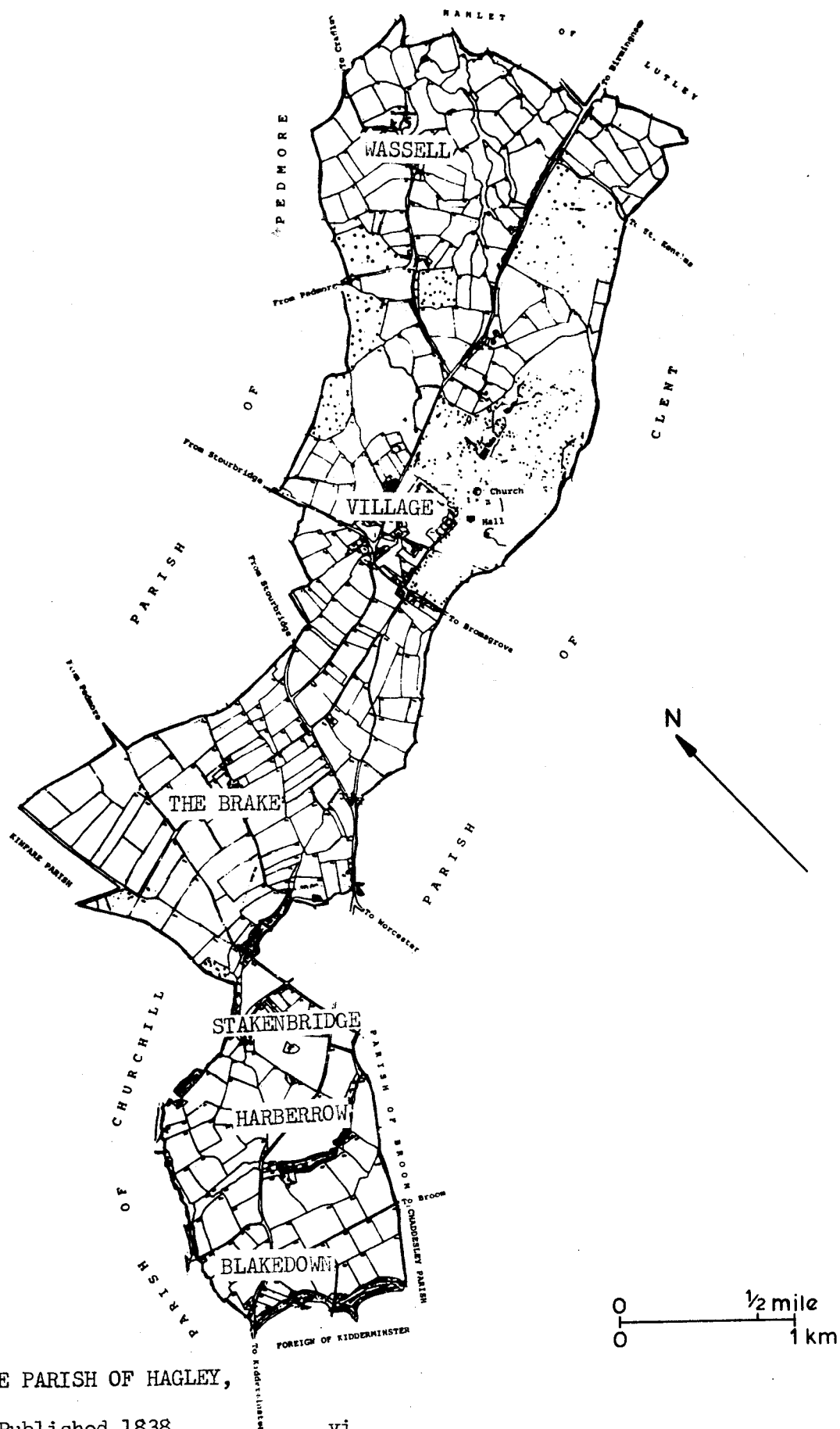
As this publication is based very much on the documents in the Parish Chest, it can in no way be regarded as a history of Hagley. Nevertheless, several themes emerged as study proceeded and these themes have helped to give some coherence to this account. Some additional material was consulted, since the opportunity was taken to examine wills and inventories and the relevant Enumerators' Books of the 1851 census.

We are grateful to the Rector, Churchwardens and Parochial Church Council of the parish of Hagley for this opportunity to study the Parish Chest, and in addition for the use of the comfortable and well-heated Gallery at St. Saviour's, West Hagley. The class and its tutor are particularly indebted to the Parish Archivist and Class Secretary, Mrs. Jean Pritchard, whose organisation and energy were a major contribution to the success of the classes.

Thanks are also given to Mr. John Stevens for help in analysing the Constables' Accounts, to David Bicknell, former pupil of Haybridge High School, for his drawing of Hagley Station Bridge and insignia, to Dr. J. E. Lally for his original tracing of the Tithe Map, to the Hereford and Worcester Record Office for permission to reproduce the Inventories, and to the Public Record Office for the page of the Enumerator's Book.

Roy Peacock, Class Tutor.

MAP OF THE PARISH OF HAGLEY



TITHE MAP OF THE PARISH OF HAGLEY,
WORCESTERSHIRE
Surveyed 1837, Published 1838