

‘For the house her self and one servant’:
households and families in late
seventeenth-century London

Mark Merry

Rewley House
University of Oxford
November 22nd 2008

Domestic group projects

- People in place: families, households and housing in London, 1550-1720 (2003-2006, AHRC)
- Housing environments and health in London, 1550-1720 (2006-2008, Wellcome Trust)
- Life in the suburbs: health, domesticity and status in early modern London (2008-2011, ESRC)

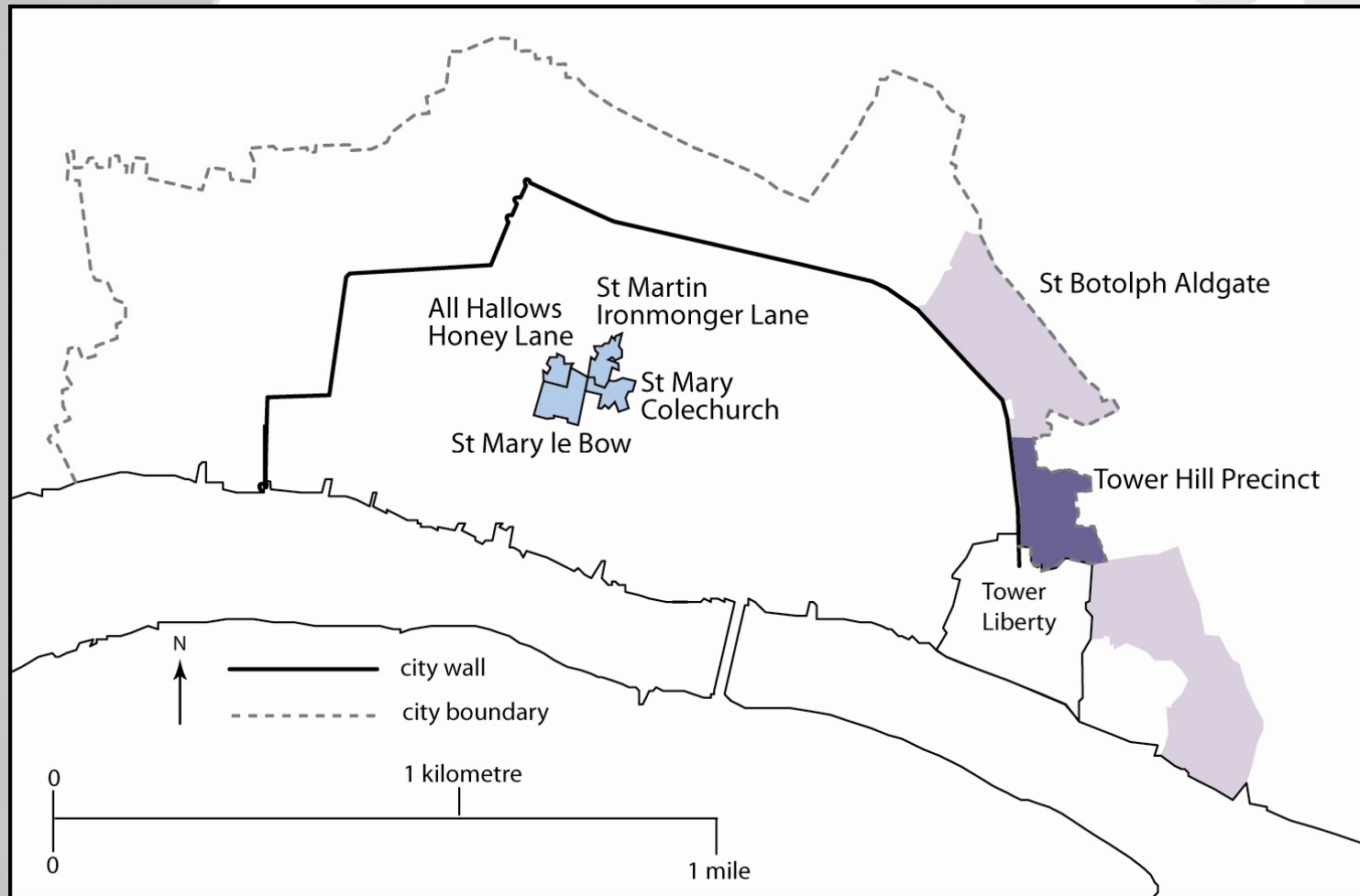
<http://www.history.ac.uk/cmh/projects.html>

Centre for Metropolitan History, Birkbeck and the Cambridge
Group for the History of Population and Social Structure



health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

The Cheapside and Aldgate study areas



Life
in the
Suburbs

health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

The Marriage Duty Assessment

The Respective Names and Quality of of His Majesty and Respective Inhabitants and their Families of Residing and Being in the Parish of St Mary Le Bow London Together with their Several Appts

| Their Names | Quality | Occasional Payments | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| | | Burials £ s d | Births £ s d | Marriages £ s d | Bachelors & Widowers |
| John Baptist Peters | Attorney at Law | 1-4-0 | 12 | - | - |
| Martia Peters | his wife | - 14 - | - | - | - |
| Richard Peters | his Eldest Son | - 14 - | - | - | - |
| Martia Peters | his Daughters 2 | 14 | - | - | - |
| Francis Peters | | 14 | - | - | - |
| Edward Harris | his Clarke | - 14 - | - | 12-6 | - |
| Sam Lillistone | his maid servt | 4 | - | - | - |
| John Whitehead | his foot boy | 4 | - | - | - |
| William Ramsay | Taylor | 0-4-0 | 2-8 | - | - |
| Margaret Ramsay | his wife | 0-4 | - | - | - |
| Sarah Ramsay | his Daughters 2 | 0-4 | - | - | - |
| Elizabeth Ramsay | | 0-4 | - | - | - |
| Susanna Weston | Affluent woman | 0-4 | - | - | - |



Life
in the
Suburbs

health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

Properties and households, St Mary Colechurch 1695

| Marriage Duty Assessment 1695 | Poor rate 1695 |
|---|--|
| <p>James Lombard bach Mary Lombard his sister Susanna Masters servant William Chandler bach. Lydia Price widow Sarah her children John her children Hanna Rhodes her servant</p> | <p>John Hayes 19s 6d James Lombard 19s 6d William Chandler 6s 6d Thomas Lawrence 19s 6d Benjamin Bolton or successor 6s 6d Henry Ashton or successor 6s 6d William Reynolds 13s</p> |
| <p>Mr Thomas Lawrence Mary his wife Mary their children John their children Samuel Skeggs servants Hannah Wilksinson servants</p> <p>Mr Benjamin Bolton Jane his wife Mercy Jenkins servant Henry Ashton barber Thos Page his servant</p> | |



Life
in the
Suburbs

health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

Marriage Duty Assessment: housefuls

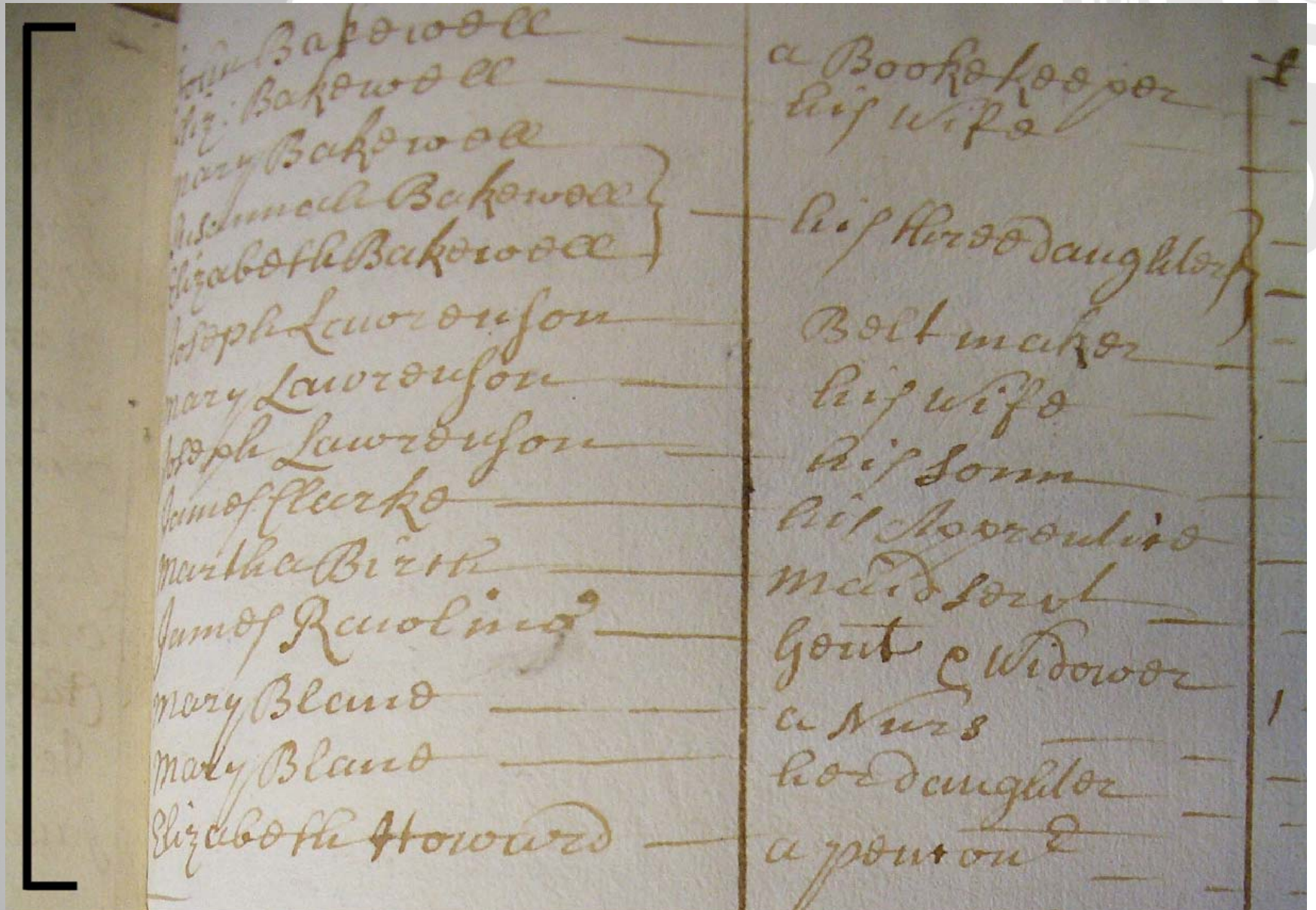
| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| John Bakewell | a Bookkeeper |
| Mary Bakewell | his wife |
| Elizabeth Bakewell | his daughter |
| Joseph Laverison | Belt maker |
| Mary Laverison | his wife |
| Joseph Laverison | his son |
| Ann of Parks | his apprentice |
| Martina Birnie | maid servt |
| Ann of Rowling | gent & widow |
| Mary Bland | a Nurs |
| Mary Bland | her daughter |
| Elizabeth Howard | a yeoman |
| Thomas Spence | musician & vnder |
| Benjamin Spence | his son |
| Bridgett Spence | his daughter |
| Senah Nicholson | widow a servt |
| Richard Spence | Whiting & Barber |
| John Edwards | carpenter |
| Mary Edwards | his wife |
| Elizabeth Edwards | his daughter |
| Ann Bradford | maid servt |
| Thomas Starke | apprentice |
| Barber | |



Life
in the
Suburbs

health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

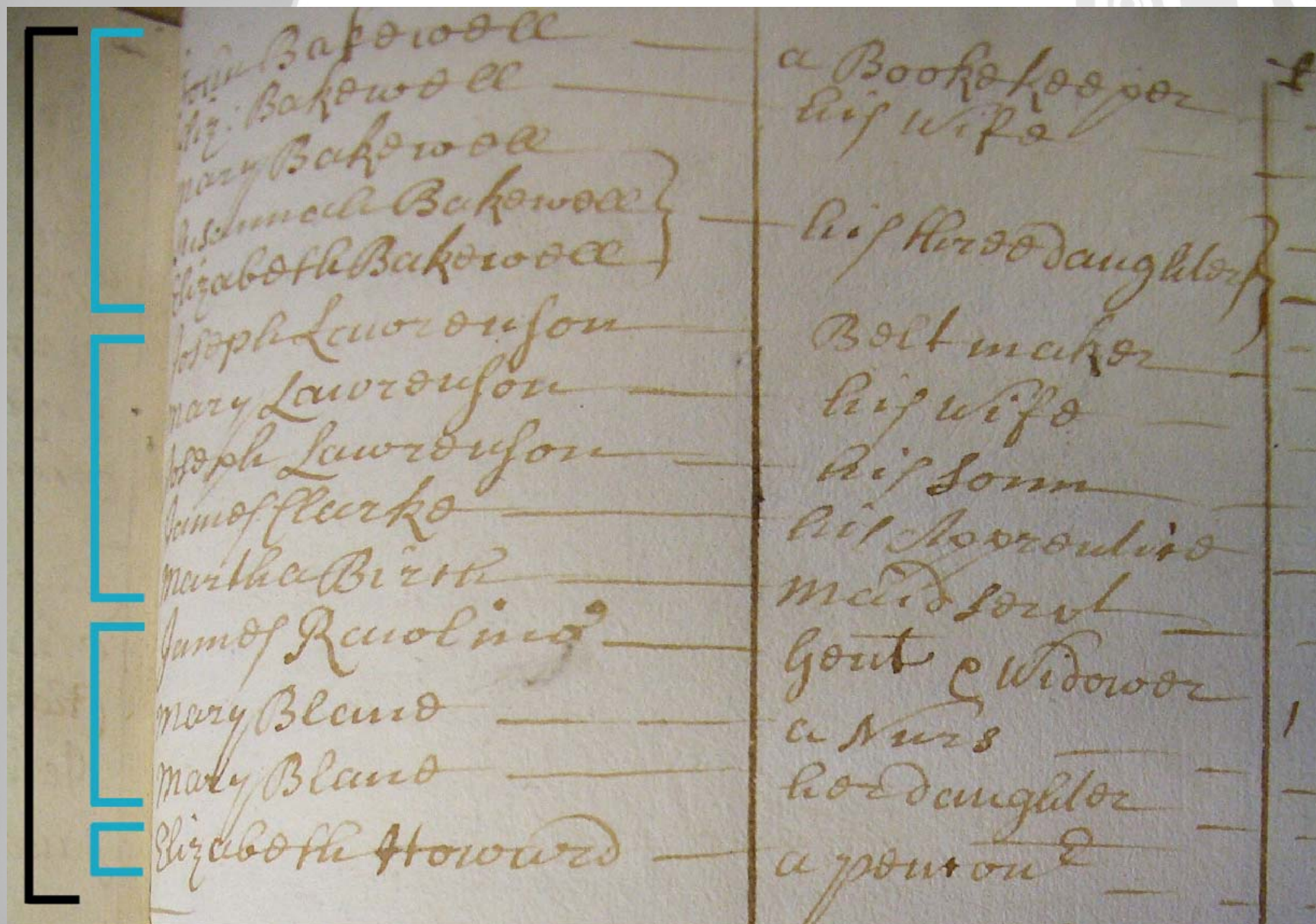
Marriage Duty Assessment: housefuls



A handwritten ledger page with two columns. The left column contains names, and the right column contains descriptions of household members. The entries are as follows:

| Name | Description |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bakewell | a Bookkeeper |
| Mary Bakewell | his wife |
| Elizabeth Bakewell | his first daughter |
| Joseph Luverson | Bolt maker |
| Mary Luverson | his wife |
| Joseph Luverson | his son |
| James Clerk | his apprentice |
| Maria Birt | maid servant |
| James Rowling | gent & widower |
| Mary Bland | a Nurse |
| Mary Bland | her daughter |
| Elizabeth Howard | a young one |

Marriage Duty Assessment: households



| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Bakewell | a Bookkeeper | 1 |
| Mary Bakewell | his wife | |
| Mrs. Bakewell | | |
| Elizabeth Bakewell | his first daughter | |
| Joseph Lawtonson | Bolt maker | |
| Mary Lawtonson | his wife | |
| Joseph Lawtonson | his son | |
| James Clerk | his apprentice | |
| Maria Birn | maid servant | |
| James Rowling | gent & widower | |
| Mary Bland | a Nurse | 1 |
| Mary Bland | her daughter | |
| Elizabeth Howard | a person | |

Marriage Duty Assessment: families

A handwritten ledger with two columns. The left column contains names and the right column contains descriptions of their marital status or professions. Blue brackets on the left group names into three sections. Red brackets on the right group descriptions into three sections.

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Bakewell | a Booke for her |
| Mary Bakewell | her wife |
| Mrs. Ann Bakewell | her third daughter |
| Elizabeth Bakewell | |
| Joseph Luvordson | Belt maker |
| Mary Luvordson | her wife |
| Joseph Luvordson | her son |
| James Clarke | her second |
| Mercy Birt | maid servant |
| James Rowling | gent & widower |
| Mary Bland | a Nurse |
| Mary Bland | her daughter |
| Elizabeth Howard | a young one |

Domestic units, 1695

| Area | Total population | Total housefuls | Total households | Total families |
|--|------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Cheapside sample | 1478 | 225 | 429 | 436 |
| Tower Hill precinct (St Botolph Aldgate) | 2082 | 465 | 808 | 808 |

Number of domestic groups in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

| Area | Mean houseful size (mean number of cohabitants within a single property) | Mean household size | Mean family size |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------|------------------|
| Cheapside sample | 6.6 | 3.4 | 2.3 |
| Tower Hill precinct | 4.5 | 2.5 | 2.3 |
| Glass' London sample | 7.5 | - | - |
| Laslett's London sample | 5.75 | - | - |
| Laslett's non-London sample | 4.7 | - | - |

Mean number of property occupants, and mean household and family sizes in Cheapside and Aldgate (and elsewhere in London), 1695



health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

Cohabiting households, 1695

| | Mean number of households per property | Number of households within properties | Number of properties | % of all properties |
|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------------|---------------------|
| Cheapside sample | 1.9 | 1 | 123 | 54.7% |
| | | 2 | 58 | 25.8% |
| | | 3 | 21 | 9.3% |
| | | 4 or more | 23 | 10.2% |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 1.7 | 1 | 250 | 53.8% |
| | | 2 | 128 | 27.5% |
| | | 3 | 57 | 12.3% |
| | | 4 or more | 30 | 6.5% |

Number of distinct households cohabiting in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695



Life
in the
Suburbs

health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

Lodgers, 1695

| | Total number of lodging households | Lodging households as % of all households | Average size of lodging household | Average size of non-lodging household | Total number of lodging families | Lodging families as % of all families | Average size of lodging family | Average size of non-lodging family |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cheapside sample | 47 | 11% | 2.2 | 3.5 | 47 | 10.8% | 1.5 | 2.3 |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 82 | 10.1% | 1.5 | 2.7 | 82 | 10.1% | 1.3 | 2.4 |

Lodging households and families in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

| | Total number of lodgers | Lodgers as % of total population | Number of properties with at least one lodger | % of properties with at least one lodger | Mean number of lodgers in those properties with any lodgers |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Cheapside sample | 76 | 5.1% | 30 | 13.3% | 2.5 |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 116 | 5.6% | 64 | 13.8% | 1.9 |

Lodgers in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

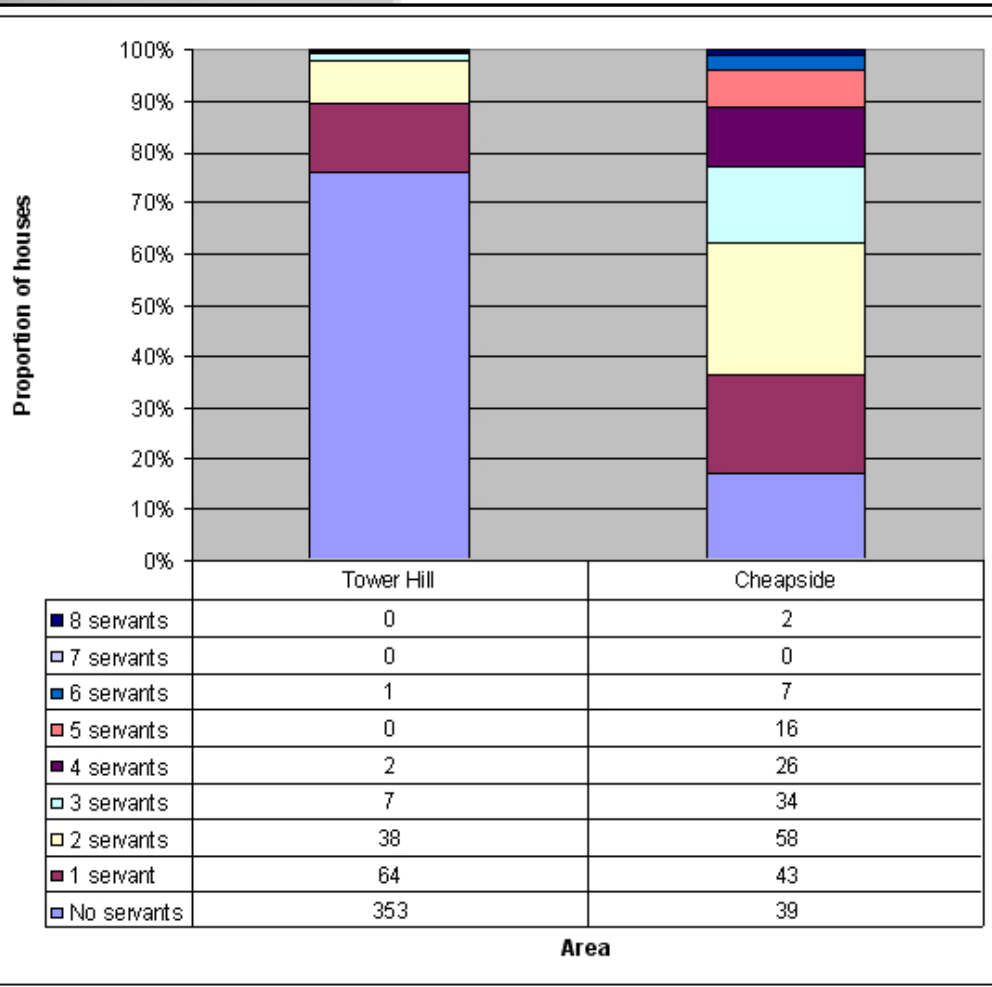
| | Lodgers living as household or family groups | | | Lodgers living as singletons | | Lodgers living as singletons with servants | | |
|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|--|-------------------------|------------------|
| | Number of groups | Total number of lodgers | % of all lodgers | Total number of lodgers | % of all lodgers | Number of groups | Total number of lodgers | % of all lodgers |
| Cheapside sample | 16 | 43 | 56.6% | 29 | 38.2% | 2 | 4 | 5.3% |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 19 | 49 | 42.2% | 63 | 54.3% | 2 | 4 | 3.4% |

Lodgers as domestic groups and singletons in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

Servants and apprentices, 1695

| | Total number of servants/apprentices | % of population | Mean servants/apprentices per house |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cheapside sample | 503 | 34% | 2.2 |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 175 | 8.4% | 0.4 |

Servants and apprentices in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695



Numbers of servants inhabiting houses in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695



Life
in the
Suburbs

health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

Extended families, 1695

| Area | Total families | Extended families | | Three generation families | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|
| | | Definite | Definite + possible | Definite | Definite + possible |
| Cheapside sample | 436 | 14 | 40 | 1 | 4 |
| % of all Cheapside families | | 3.2% | 9.2% | 0.2% | 0.9% |
| | | | | | |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 808 | 42 | 42 | 1 | 13 |
| % of all Aldgate families | | 5.2% | 5.2% | 0.1% | 1.6% |

Extended and three generation families in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695



health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

Marital status, 1695

| | Number of married couples in the property | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|-------|------|------|------|
| | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Cheapside sample | 22.7% | 67.6% | 8% | 0.9% | 0.9% |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 23.2% | 67.5% | 8.2% | 0.9% | 0.2% |

Proportion of properties accommodating married couples in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

| | | Bachelor | Married | Widow/er | Spinster | Single/unknown |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|----------|---------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Cheapside sample | Including servants | 7.7% | 34.5% | 4.6% | 1.5% | 51.7% |
| | Excluding servants | 17.8% | 55.1% | 11.1% | 4.2% | 11.8% |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | Including servants | 2.4% | 55.2% | 1.5% | 0% | 40.9% |
| | Excluding servants | 5.7% | 78.4% | 3.3% | 0% | 12.6% |

Proportion of the adult population by marital status in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695



Life
in the
Suburbs

health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

Children, 1695

| | Total number of children | % of population | Mean children per property having any children | Mean children per family having any children | % of properties with no children | % of families with no children |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Cheapside sample | 299 | 20.2% | 2.2 | 1.9 | 39.6% | 64.2% |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 613 | 29.4% | 2 | 1.9 | 34.2% | 60.3% |

Children in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

| | % of those families with any children which are headed by a single parent |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Cheapside sample | 23.1% |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 21.8% |

Single parent families in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695



Life
in the
Suburbs

health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London

'Wealth', 1695

| | Lone householders (without servants) as % of all households | Lone householders (employing servants) as % of all households |
|-------------------------------|---|---|
| Cheapside sample | 33.6% | 8.6% |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 36.8% | 1.6% |

Lone householders in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

| | % of properties housing one or more bachelors | % of total households hosting any bachelors | % of households hosting any bachelors whose head is assessed at £600 | % of bachelors worth £600 | Bachelors as % of total population (excluding children, servants and apprentices) |
|--|---|---|--|---------------------------|---|
| Cheapside sample | 29.8% | 18.2% | 60.3% | 38.5% | 17.87% |
| Tower Hill precinct (St Botolph Aldgate) | 6.7% | 4.2% | 8.8% | 8.6% | 5.7% |

Bachelors in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

| | % of households headed by £600+ householder | % of dwellings housing more than one household with differing status ratings |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Cheapside sample | 33.8% | 51.6% |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | 4% | 6.9% |

Wealth and status in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

| | Status rating | Lodgers as % of total adult population | % of lodgers |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--|--------------|
| Cheapside sample | Basic | 11.6% | 92.6% |
| | £600+ | 0.9% | 7.4% |
| Tower Hill precinct (Aldgate) | Basic | 18.2% | 99.1% |
| | £600+ | 0.2% | 0.9% |

Lodgers and their wealth in Cheapside and Aldgate, 1695

Life in the Suburbs

<http://sas-space.sas.ac.uk/dspace/handle/10065/1756/browse-title>

'Oxford Dayschool 22/11/08'

People in Place

<http://sas-space.sas.ac.uk/dspace/handle/10065/97/browse-title>



health, domesticity
and status in early
modern London