

Contents

<i>List of figures</i>	<i>page</i> x
<i>List of tables</i>	xi
<i>Acknowledgments</i>	xii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xiv
 Introduction: Old age in eighteenth-century England: no "golden age of aging"	 1
1 Who was "old" in eighteenth-century England?	16
2 The activities of the "helmsman": self-reliance, work, and community expectations of the elderly	65
3 "The comforts of a private fire-side"	116
4 Independent but not alone: family ties for the elderly	141
5 Community assistance to the aged under the Old Poor Law	173
6 Continuity and change in community assistance to the elderly over the eighteenth century	221
7 Within workhouse walls: indoor relief for the elderly	247
Conclusion: Old age as a useful category of historical analysis	277
 <i>Bibliography</i>	 284
<i>Index</i>	315

Figures

1.1	Ages given in the Ardleigh census of 1796	<i>page</i> 46
1.2	Age at which men were labeled "old"	60
1.3	Age at which women were labeled "old"	60
3.1a	Household headship rates: males aged 45 and over	128
3.1b	Household headship rates: females aged 45 and over	128
4.1	Women with co-resident grandchildren (and no spouse) in the Corfe Castle, Dorset, household listing, 1790	162
5.1a	Total yearly amounts of relief given to five individuals in Terling	204
5.1b	Total yearly amounts given to four aged females in Ovenden	204
5.1c	Total yearly amounts given to four aged men in Ovenden	205
6.1	Percentage of elderly paupers who are women	239
7.1	Percentage of inmates 60 and over in Terling's workhouse	251

Tables

2.1 Age structure of Members of Parliament	<i>page</i> 103
2.2 Age at which Members of Parliament aged 45 or more stopped serving	104
3.1 Co-residence with spouse and children for individuals aged 60 and over	127
3.2 Percentage household heads by occupation: the elderly in 18th-century rural populations	130
3.3 Widows as executors of husbands' wills	136
3.4 Provisions for widows in 18th-century wills	138
3.5 Changing provisions for widows over 18th century	139
4.1 Presence of children in households of individuals 60 and over	151
4.2 Co-residents of individuals aged 60+ (aggregated by period and economic type)	158
4.3 Married and widowed men: bequests beyond family of procreation	168
5.1 The age structure of relief in 32 parishes	185
5.2 Regional variation in age structure and amount of relief	187
5.3 Average adult pensions: Ovenden, Terling, and Puddletown (in pence)	199
5.4 Age distribution of poor-relief recipients in the three parishes	200
6.1 Relief recipients aged 60 and over: Terling and Puddletown	223
6.2 Average weekly pensions for linked adults (in pence)	228
6.3 Proportion of relief given in kind in Puddletown and Terling	235
6.4 Average age of onset of pensions for those aged 60+	240
6.5 Old-old and young-old relief recipients in Terling and Puddletown	243
6.6 Weekly pensions for aged in Terling and Puddletown (in pence)	244
7.1 Age and gender of Ovenden's workhouse inmates	260