

Contents

<i>List of Tables</i>	x
Introduction: Definitions	1
1. The Local Context	30
2. Parish Office and the Formation of Social Identity	90
3. 'Chief Inhabitants' and 'Material Culture'	141
4. The Language of Social Authority	201
Conclusion	262
<i>Bibliography</i>	268
<i>Index</i>	295

List of Tables

1.1a Household Hearth Tax assessments in Essex and Suffolk parishes, 1671 and 1674	37
1.1b Household Hearth Tax assessments in Lancashire Parishes, 1673	38
1.1c Household Hearth Tax assessments in Dorset Parishes, 1662 – 1664	39
1.2 Overseers' disbursements in Essex and Suffolk parishes, 1655 – 1720	40
1.3a Household wealth and trade stock, Essex and Suffolk clothiers, 1625 – 1740	42
1.3b Household wealth of Essex and Suffolk weavers by ownership of looms, 1625 – 1740	43
1.4 Household and total inventory valuations compared with Hearth Tax assessments, by region, c. 1660 – 1695	45
1.5a Differences between household goods and total inventory valuations, Essex and Suffolk, 1625 – 1740, by quartiles	46
1.5b Differences between household goods and total inventory valuations, Lancashire, 1640 – 1740, by quartiles	46
1.5c Differences between household goods and total inventory valuations, Dorset, 1640 – 1740	47
1.6 Probate inventories including farm produce and stock, by region, 1620 – 1740 (%)	53
1.7 Distribution of copyhold land ownership, Earls Colne, Essex, 1600 – 1750	55
1.8 Households with female heads, officers, or servants, by household size, Lyme Regis, 1697	83
2.1 Rate assessments of officers and vestry members, Essex – Suffolk and Dorset parishes	113
2.2 Hearth Tax assessments for parish officers and vestry members, by region	114
2.3 Assessment levels of parish officer, Newport Pond, Essex, 1661 – 1705, by quartiles (parish <i>mean</i> = 100)	116
2.4 Hearth Tax assessments for borough officers, 1642 – 1675 (all payers' <i>mean</i> = 100)	117
2.5 Attendances in 'open' vestries, Essex – Suffolk and Dorset parishes, 1640 – 1720	122

2.6	Attendances in 'select' vestries, Essex and Lancashire parishes, 1626–1720	123
2.7	Ratepayers in Beaminster and Newport Pond after datum points at 5-year intervals (%)	133
2.8	Hearth Tax payers and non-payers in Beaminster and Newport Pond after 1662 at 5-year intervals (%)	135
2.9	Hearth Tax payers in Beaminster and Newport Pond: all ratepayers and officer and vestry groups after 1662 at 5-year intervals (%)	136
2.10	Ratepayers in Earls Colne, 1722–1750: all ratepayers in 1750 compared to officers and vestrymen before 1750 (%)	137
3.1	Household items in Essex and Suffolk wills, by category, 1620–1720	152
3.2a	Median number of household items in inventories per household and % for officeholders and non-officeholders, by region, 1625–1679	154
3.2b	Median number of household items in inventories per household and % for officeholders and non-officeholders, by region, 1680–1740	156
3.2c	Median number of household items in inventories per officeholder household and % of all households, by region, 1625–1740	160
3.2d	Median number of household items in inventories per non-officeholder household and % of all households, by region, 1625–1740	162
3.3	Median inventory valuation of household goods for officeholders compared to valuations for all inventories, by region, 1625–1679 and 1680–1740 (£)	164
3.4	Households possessing items: office-holding groups compared to average number of items for all inventoried households, Sudbury and Preston, 1650–1730	166
3.5	Items per inventory and % of office-holding and non-office-holding households possessing them, Sherborne and Lyme Regis, Dorset, 1640–1720	171
3.6	Items per inventory and % of office-holding and non-office-holding households possessing them, Goosnargh, Lancs., and Beaminster, Dorset, 1625–1720	177
3.7a	Colour-coordinated households: % possessing items and number of items per inventoried household, East Anglia and north-west England, 1625–1740	181
3.7b	Median number of items per inventory of £50+ households and % possessing them, by region, 1620–1740	184
3.8a	Median number of items and % of quartile 1 households possessing them, by region, 1625–1740	189
3.8b	Median number of items and % of quartile 2 households possessing them, by region, 1625–1740	191

3.8c	Median number of items and % of quartile 3 households possessing them, by region, 1625 – 1740	193
3.8d	Median number of items and % of quartile 4 households possessing them, by region, 1625 – 1740	195