

3. MIGRATION

The census cannot show the effects of migration away from the village and the extent to which rural depopulation existed in Bramham in 1851. But by looking at 'Places of Birth' it is possible to get some sort of representation of the movement of people. Throughout the 19th Century migration remained extensive and essentially "diffuse and localised"(1) with movement between adjoining parishes dominating the picture. Up to 1850 the patterns of migration were little changed but the second half of the century saw a rural exodus towards the towns caused by employment problems in the countryside and improvements in transport.

There were a number of forces acting on those who migrated which dictated where they moved and why. Economic circumstances and employment opportunities were a primary factor influencing movement. While low income, a reliance on the family, kinship ties, poor standards of education and inadequate transport were traditional barriers to migration. Finally the extent to which a community could absorb newcomers made the situation complex.

These economic and social factors must be considered when looking at migration into Bramham. What is immediately apparent is that 47.2% [543] of the total population were born outside Bramham, which seems high for a village at this time. In comparison only 29% of Long Buckby's population were born outside the parish(2). But if where people came from is considered it is clear that migration may have been common but it was localised with 85% of migrants born in Yorkshire. Fig 10 shows that 84.9% were born within a 15 mile radius of the village and Fig 11 showing the top ten places where people migrated from, both illustrate the idea that movement was relatively limited. The geographical location of places of birth [Fig 12] shows little pattern but serves to point to the diffuse nature of migration.

Two factors should be noted, firstly Bramham must have been a relatively prosperous community to be able to absorb so many migrants and that movement out of the village was probably occurring on a similar scale. Secondly transport improvements must have affected migration even though traditional methods of transport, walking and local carrier still predominated in rural areas. The North Midland Railway from Harrogate to Tadcaster opened after 1841 would have brought people to within 2 miles of the village. Added to this was Bramham's accessible location on two major roads [See Chapter 1].

If those from outside the county are considered [Fig 13] again there seems to be little geographical pattern. Ireland provided the most migrants [10, of which 8 were from one family] and these could have been part of the general influx as a result of the 1840's famine. Social class and mobility are closely linked with regard to those from outside Yorkshire [Table 13]. More people in Class IV were migrating from other counties, 64% of which were servants. As a group they would have been geographically more mobile than other classes, their services were easily transferable and they could well have moved with their employer. George Lane-Fox's household shows the mobility of servants [Appendix 1].

A number of characteristics have been noted regarding those who migrated(3). Women are seen as more migratory than men because they were less dependent upon employment and generally traditional female industrial occupations were declining in rural areas. The young particularly those under 30 were more mobile and that from the mid 19th Century there was a significant increase in the number of marriages with a 'foreign' partner. Between 1851-1900 47.4% of marriages involved those from differing places(3).

The experience in Bramham is somewhat different to this. It can be seen that the young were not more migratory than older people with 62.7% of migrants over 30. This could point to the fact that young people were more likely now to move to an urban centre than an agricultural village, thus the change in migratory patterns was being felt. There was only a small proportion more women born outside Bramham than men [52.3%;47.7%] but none the less 70.8% of married couples originated from different places.

What is evident is that the idea of the labourer tied to the land is untrue. If social class and migration are considered [Table 12] it can be seen that the greatest migratory classes were IV and V, the poorest members of society. This reflects the overall picture that in 1851 migration was very widespread both socially and geographically. Bramham could not have been unaffected by changes in communications but essentially the patterns of migration seem largely traditional with people still moving to the village on a considerable scale. Thus the effects of the urban growth of Leeds did not seem to "disturb unduly the traditional patterns of short distance migration"(4). Also employment within Bramham must have been relatively stable if not increasing to be able to absorb migrants and this suggests that the traditional community was still healthy despite external change.

Footnotes:

- (1) Tranter, N. L, Population and Society, P-142
- (2) Greenall, R. L, The Population of a Northamptonshire Village 1851, P-12
- (3) Saville, J, Rural Depopulation in England and Wales 1851-1951, London 1957
- (4) Tranter, N. L, Population and Society, P-144

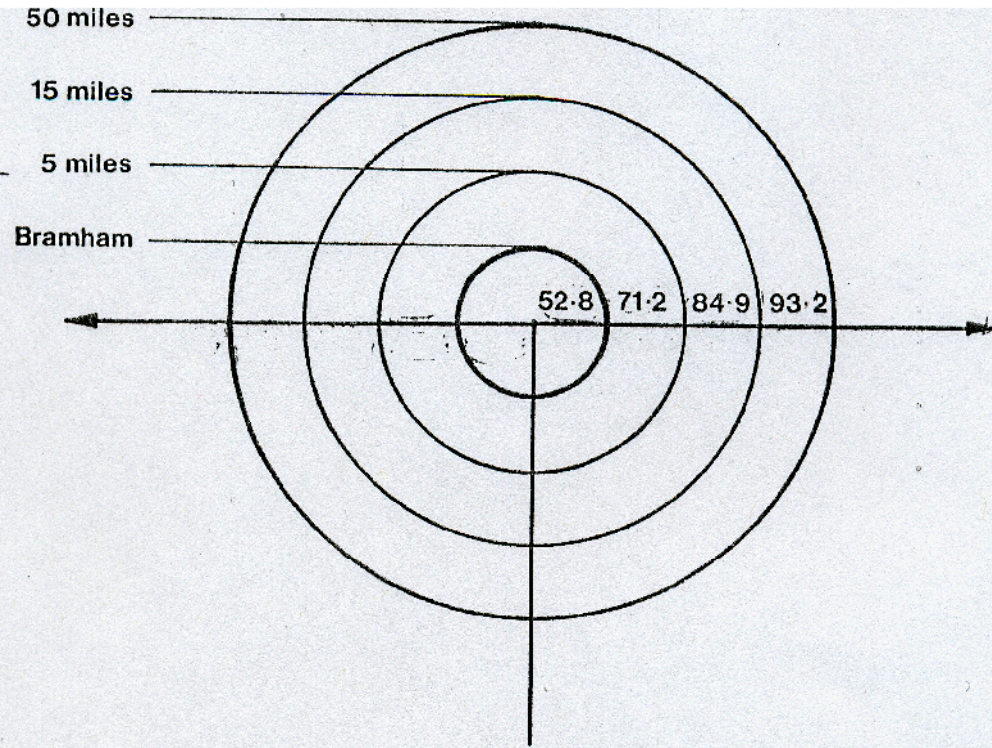


Fig 10. Accumulative Percentage of where people in Bramham originated by distance from the Village.

Fig.11. Map showing the top ten places where people originated in Bramham.

| <u>PLACE OF ORIGIN</u> | <u>°/o OF THE POPULATION</u> |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Bramham | 52.8 |
| 2. Clifford | 2.4 |
| 3. Aberford | 2.3 |
| 4. Tadcaster | 1.7 |
| 5. Leeds | 1.6 |
| 6. Barwick | 1.4 |
| 7. York | 1.2 |
| 8. Wetherby | 1.1 |
| 9. Walton | 1.0 |
| 10. Boston Spa | 0.7 |
| Spofforth | <u>0.7</u> |
| | 66.2 |

Note:

The top ten places of origin only account for 66.2% which means a third of people must come from a multitude of places pointing to the diffuse nature of mid 19th century migration.

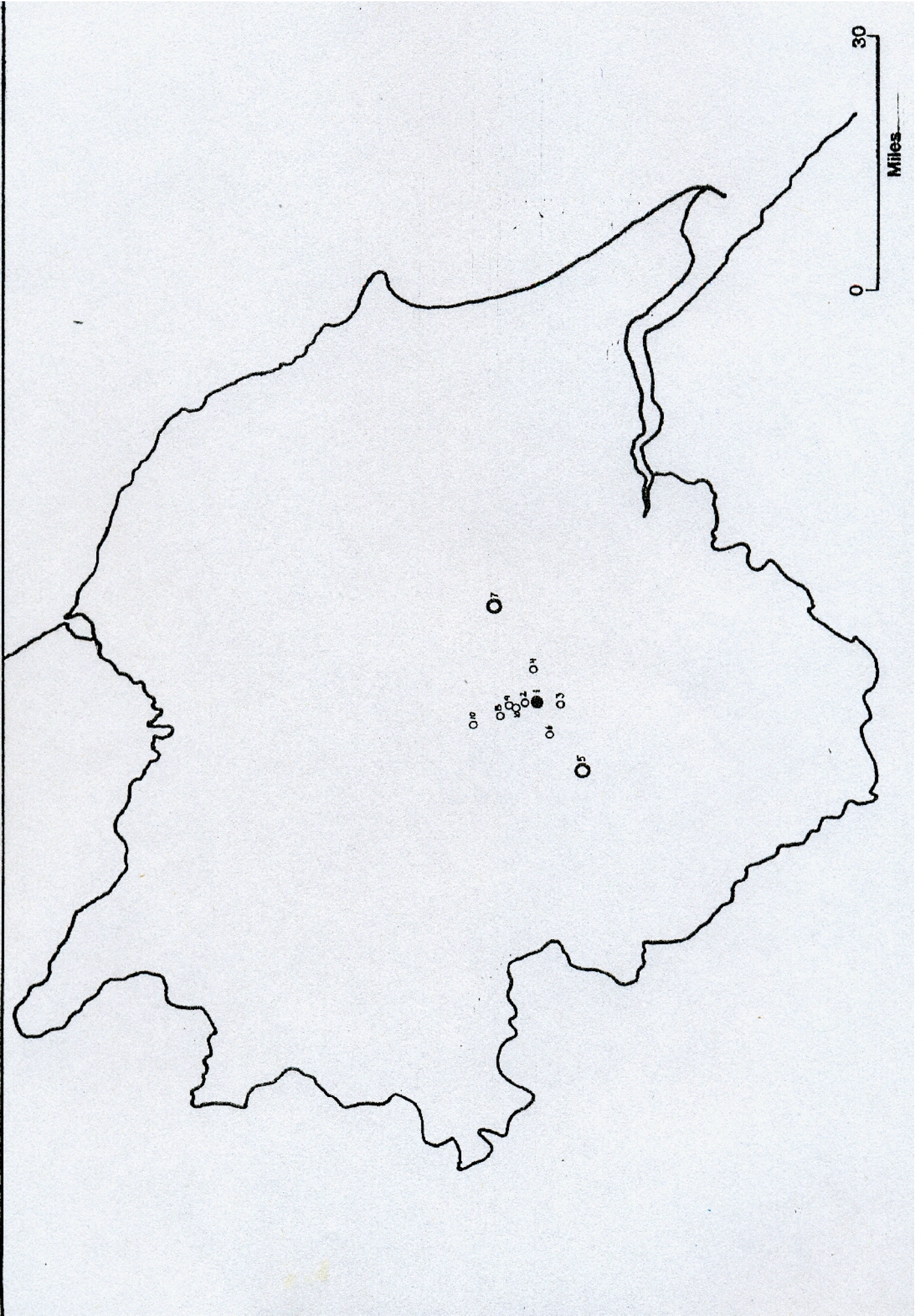
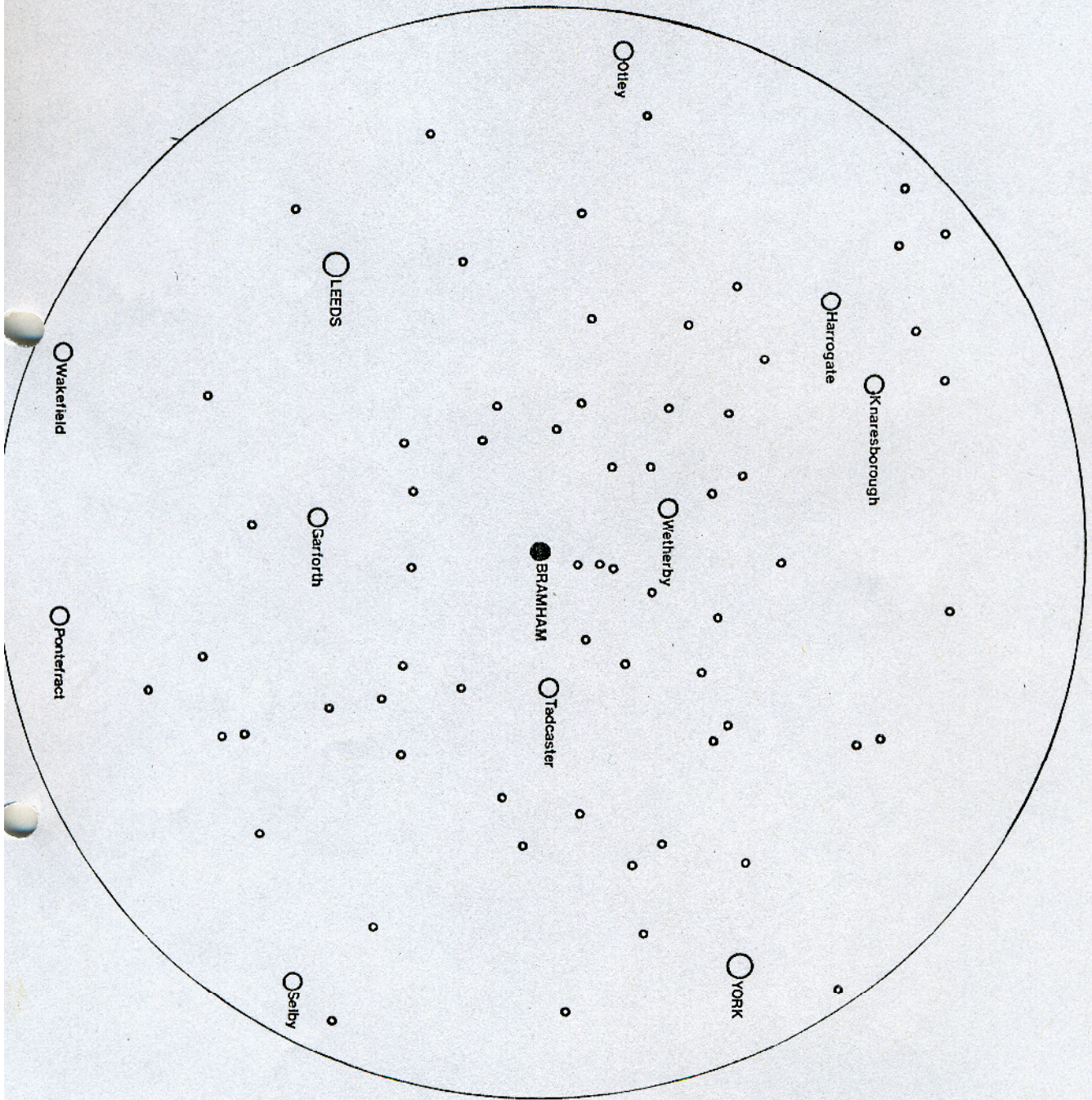


Fig 12. The Geographical Distribution of Places of Birth
(15 mile radius)



Key

- Villages
- Towns
- Cities

Scale: 0 5 Miles

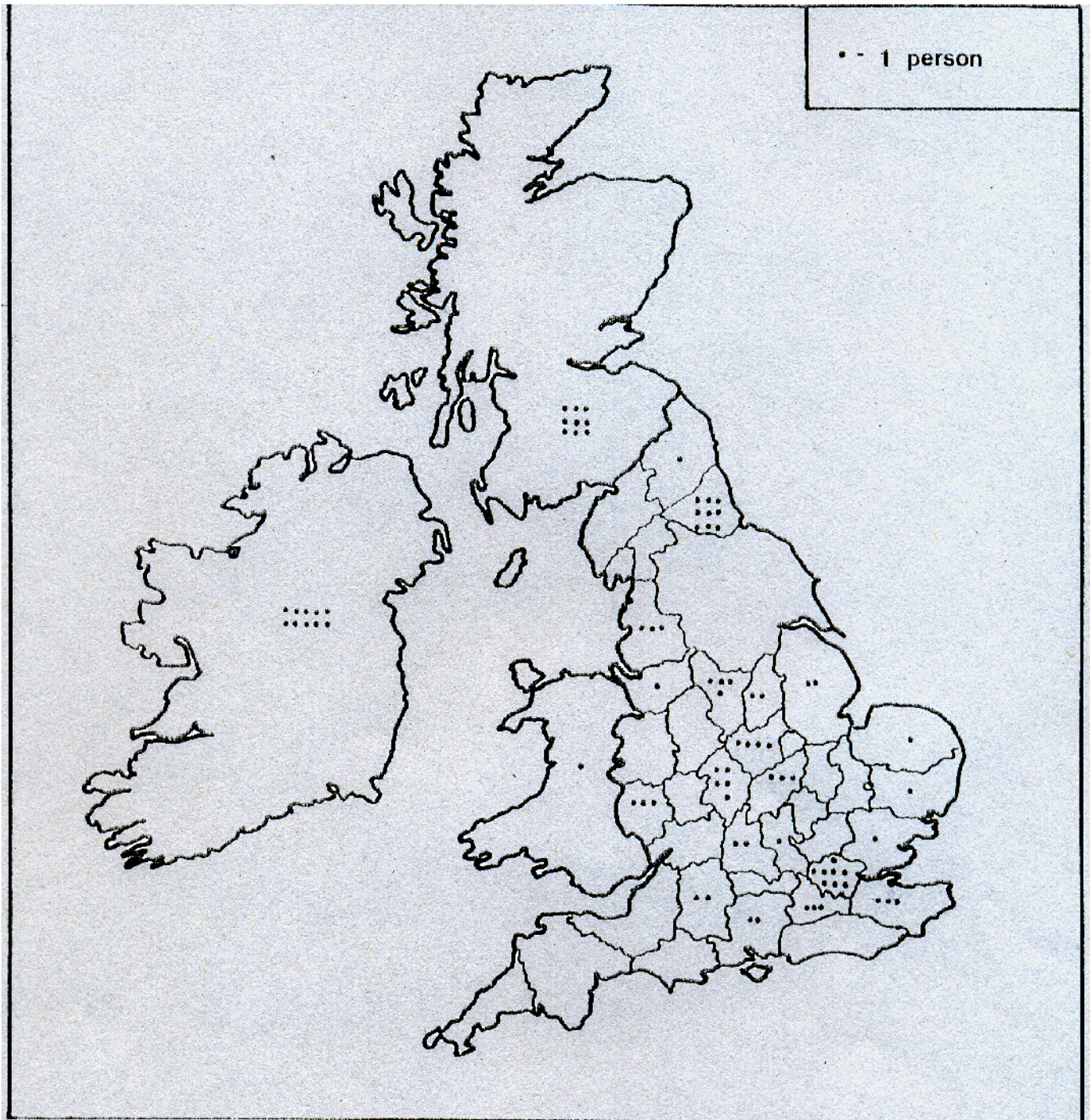


Fig 13. Those originating from outside Yorkshire

Table 12 Migration from within Yorkshire by Social Class

| Social Class | No. Born outside Yorkshire | % | % of Total Class |
|--------------|----------------------------|------|------------------|
| II | 19 | 7.9 | 36.5 |
| III | 55 | 22.7 | 44.7 |
| IV | 146 | 60 | 54.9 |
| V | 22 | 9.1 | 56.4 |
| | 242 | | |

Table 13 Migration from outside Yorkshire by Social Class

| Social Class | No. Born outside Yorkshire | % |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------|
| I | 1 | 1.25 |
| II | 9 | 11.3 |
| III | 8 | 10 |
| IV | 25 | 31.3 |
| V | 4 | 5 |
| Wives and Children | 33 | 41.3 |
| | 80 | |