

A Country Merchant, 1495–1520

*Trading and Farming at the End
of the Middle Ages*

CHRISTOPHER DYER

OXFORD
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Contents

<i>List of Maps and Figures</i>	ix
<i>List of Tables</i>	x
<i>Abbreviations</i>	xi
<i>Locating Places Mentioned in this Book</i>	xii
<i>A Note on Weights and Measures</i>	xiv
1. Introduction: Living in 1495–1520	1
Population and Resources	5
The Transition to Capitalism	9
Institutions	12
Commercialization	14
Social Restructuring	19
Sources	23
2. Family and Household: John Heritage and his Contemporaries	25
John Heritage and his Family	25
The Heritage Family in Context	41
3. John Heritage's Country	54
The Landscape of Heritage's Country	59
Links and Resemblances	62
Towns and Communications	76
Conclusion	88
4. John Heritage's Wool Business	91
Accounting	91
Making Contact with the Suppliers	100
Buying and Selling Wool	107
Paying for Commerce	120
The Trajectory of the Business	126
5. Pasture, Sheep, Wool, and People	132
Peopling the Land	133
Grazing the Land	136
Deserted Village Sites	137
Using Pasture	140
Demesnes and Pasture	150
Peasants and Pasture	153

A Profile of Wool Producers	155
Conclusion	162
6. Beyond the Account Book: Changing the Countryside	164
Lordship	164
Peasantry	174
Labour	193
Conclusion	196
Postscript: Signs of growth	196
7. Individuals and Communities	201
John Heritage the Individual	203
Individual and Collective Religious Practice	207
Town and Village Communities	209
Conclusion	221
Conclusion	222
<i>Appendix 1. Sample pages from the account book</i>	226
<i>Appendix 2. Tables of gathered wool, Heritage's own wool, and wool prices</i>	228
<i>Appendix 3. Deserted villages</i>	230
<i>Bibliography</i>	232
<i>Index</i>	247