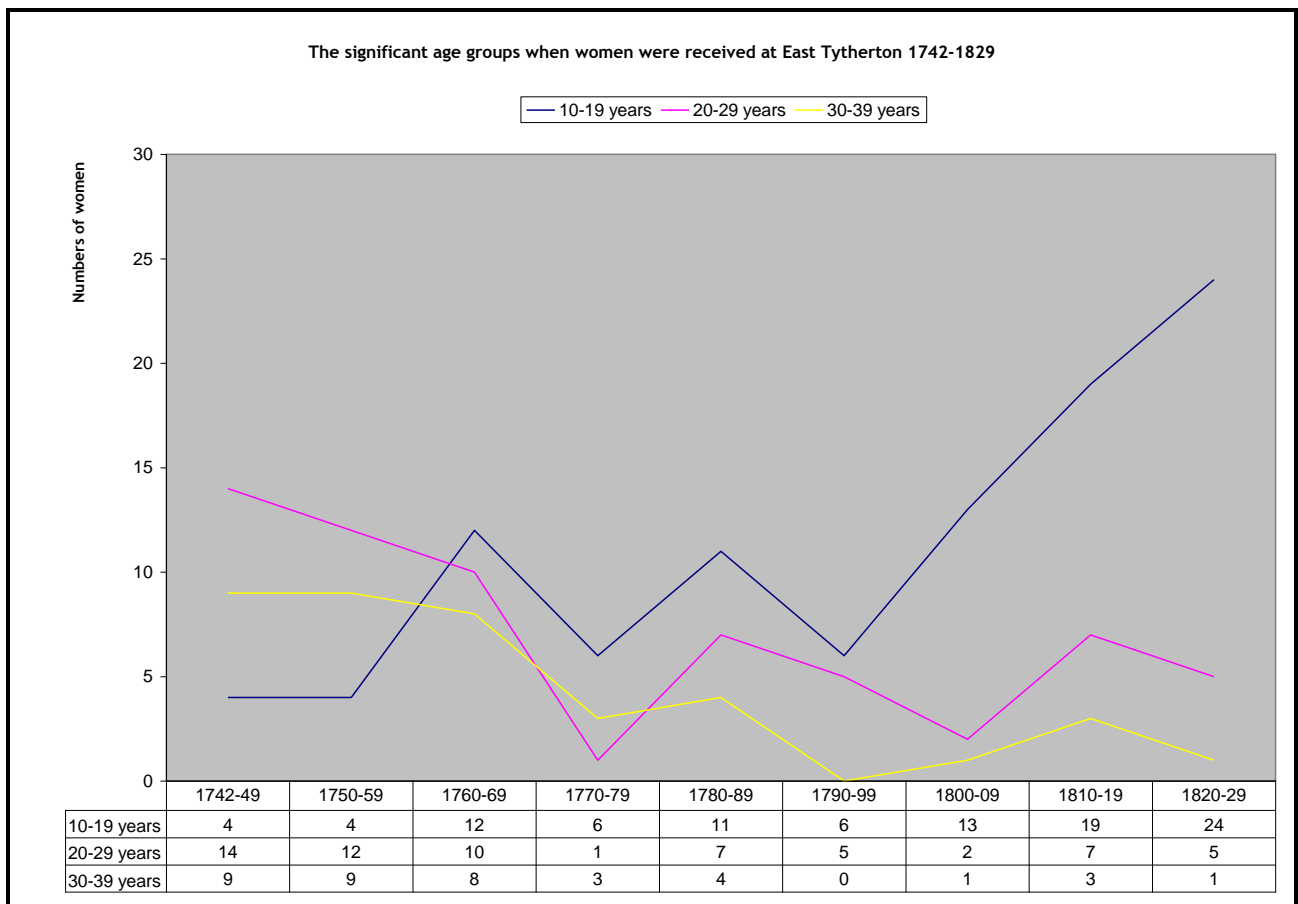
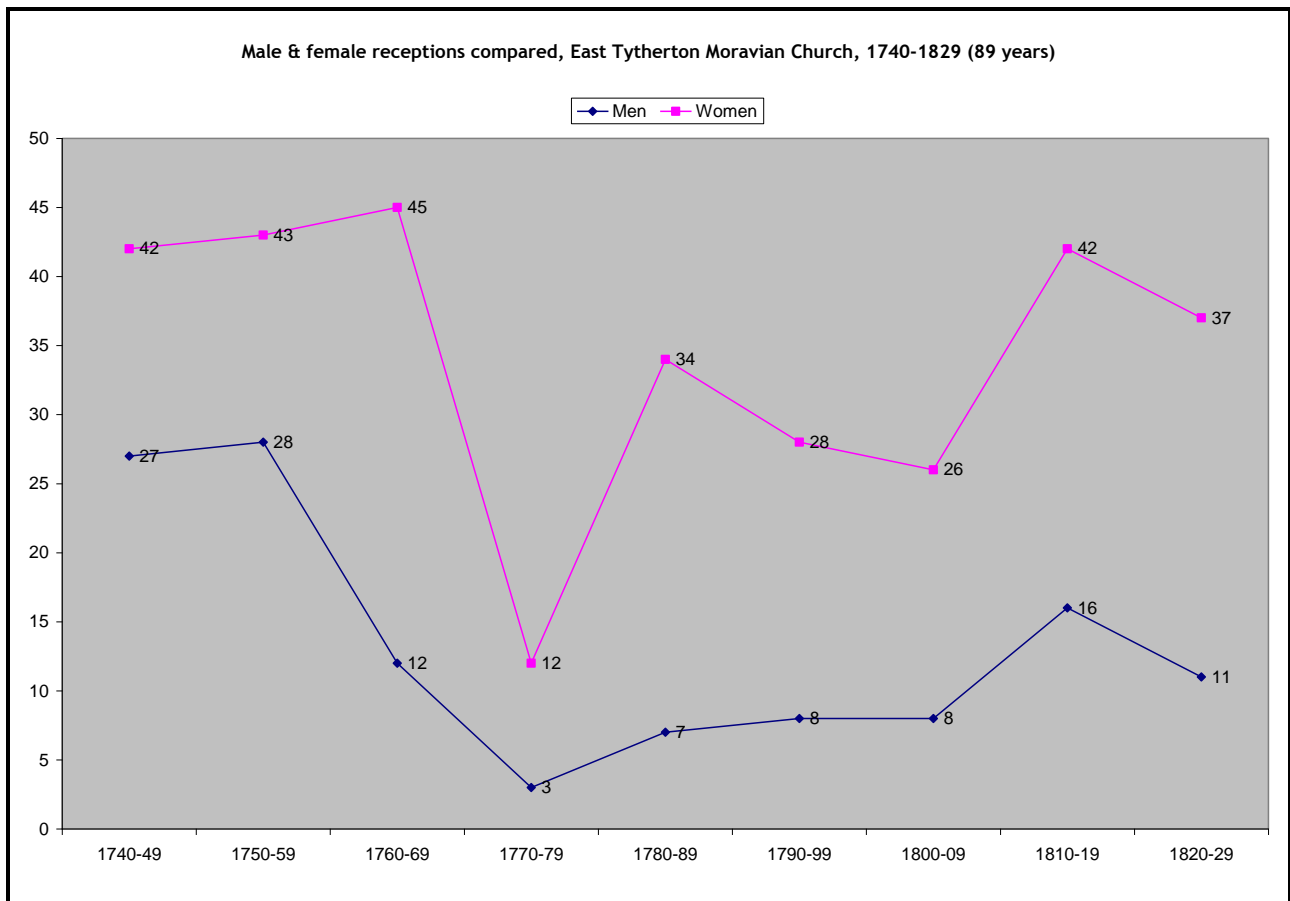
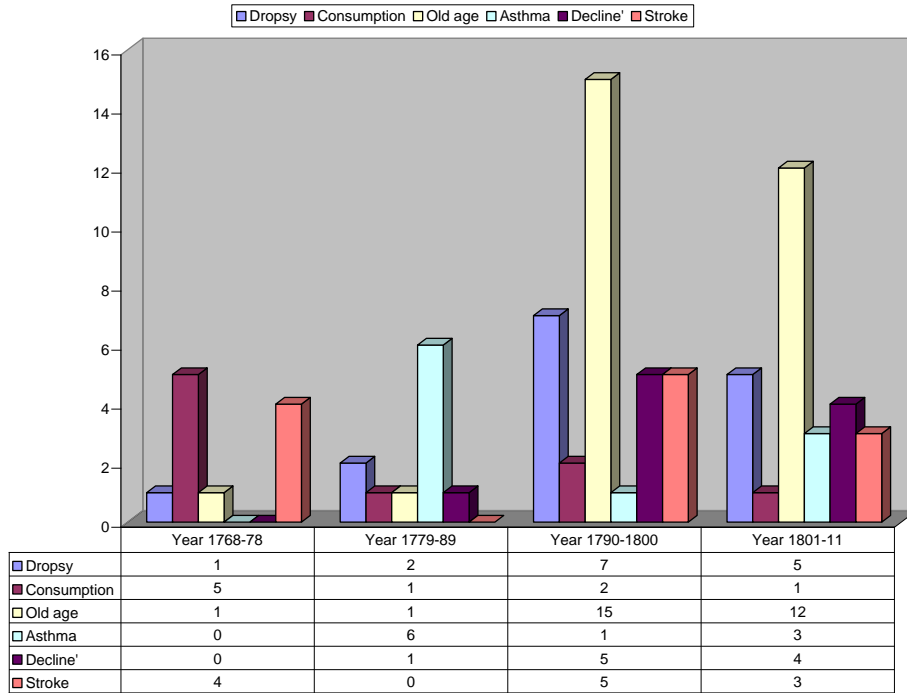


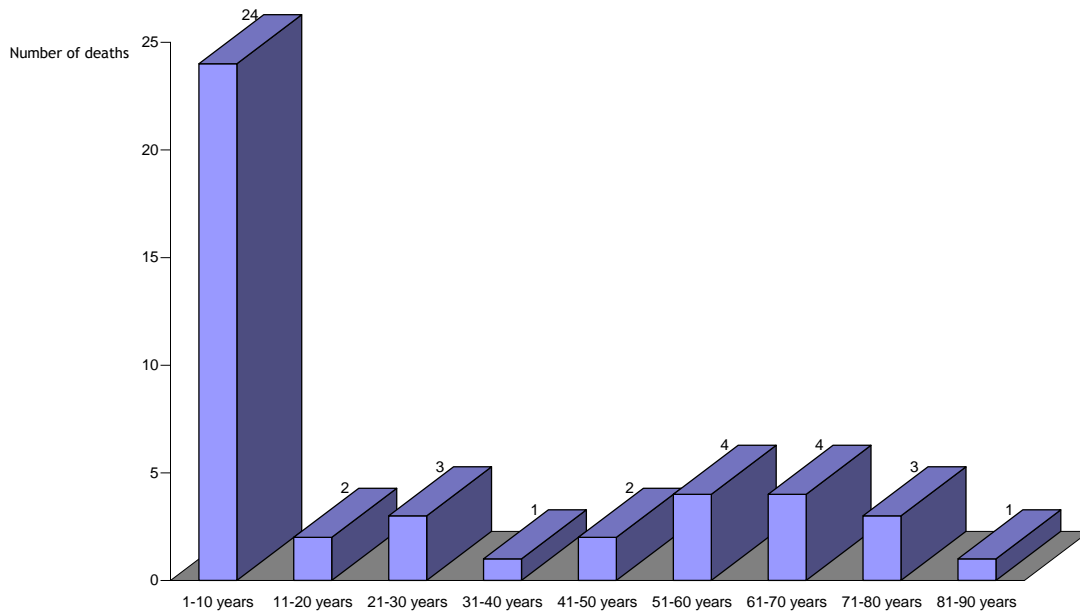
## 9. Statistics and graphs

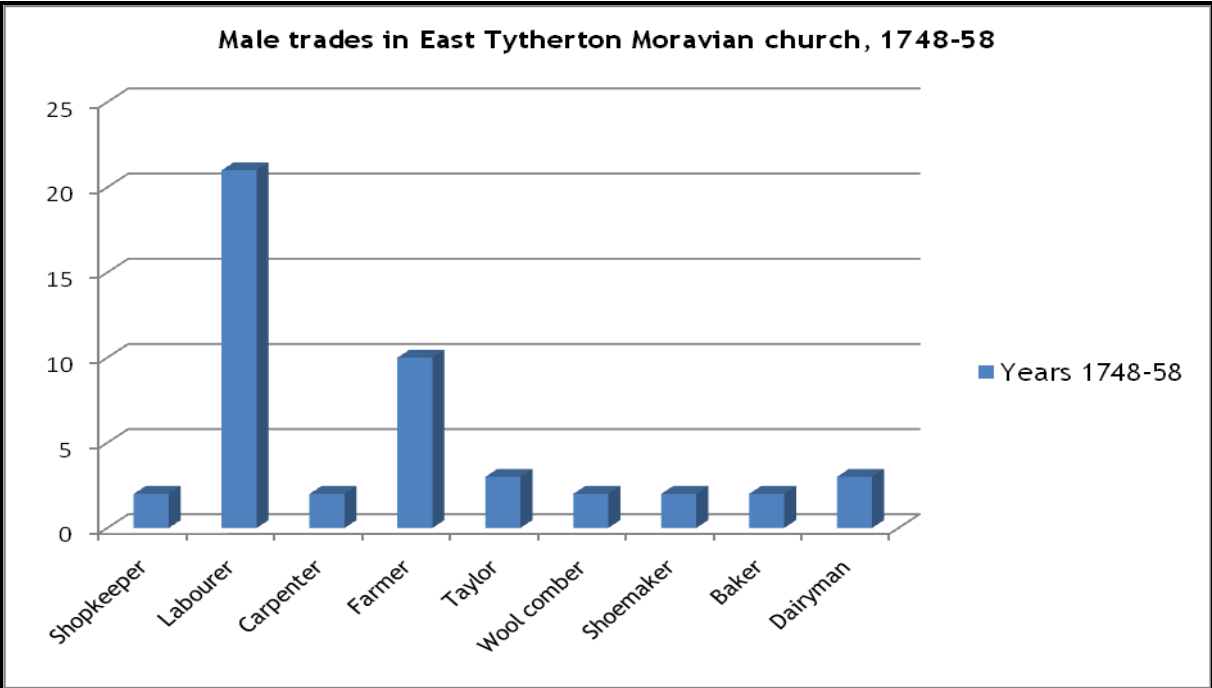
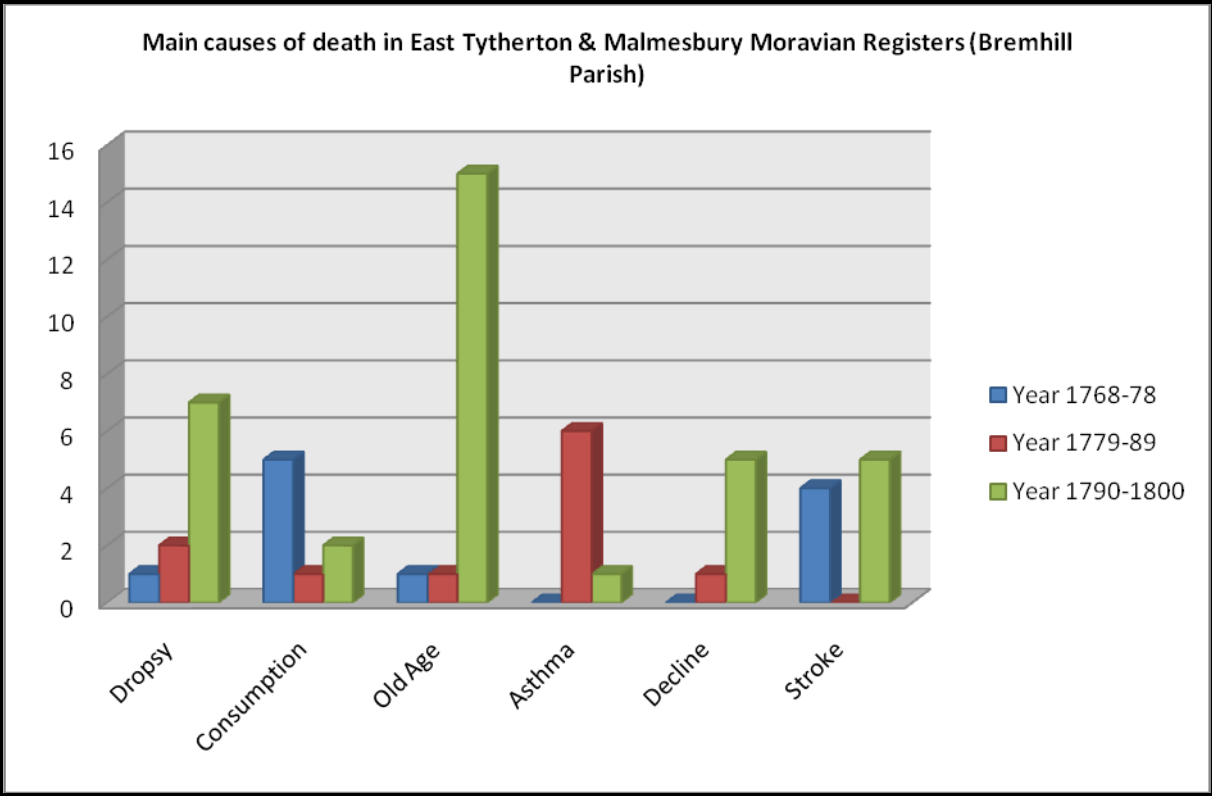


**Main causes of death in East Tytherton & Malmesbury Moravian Churches**



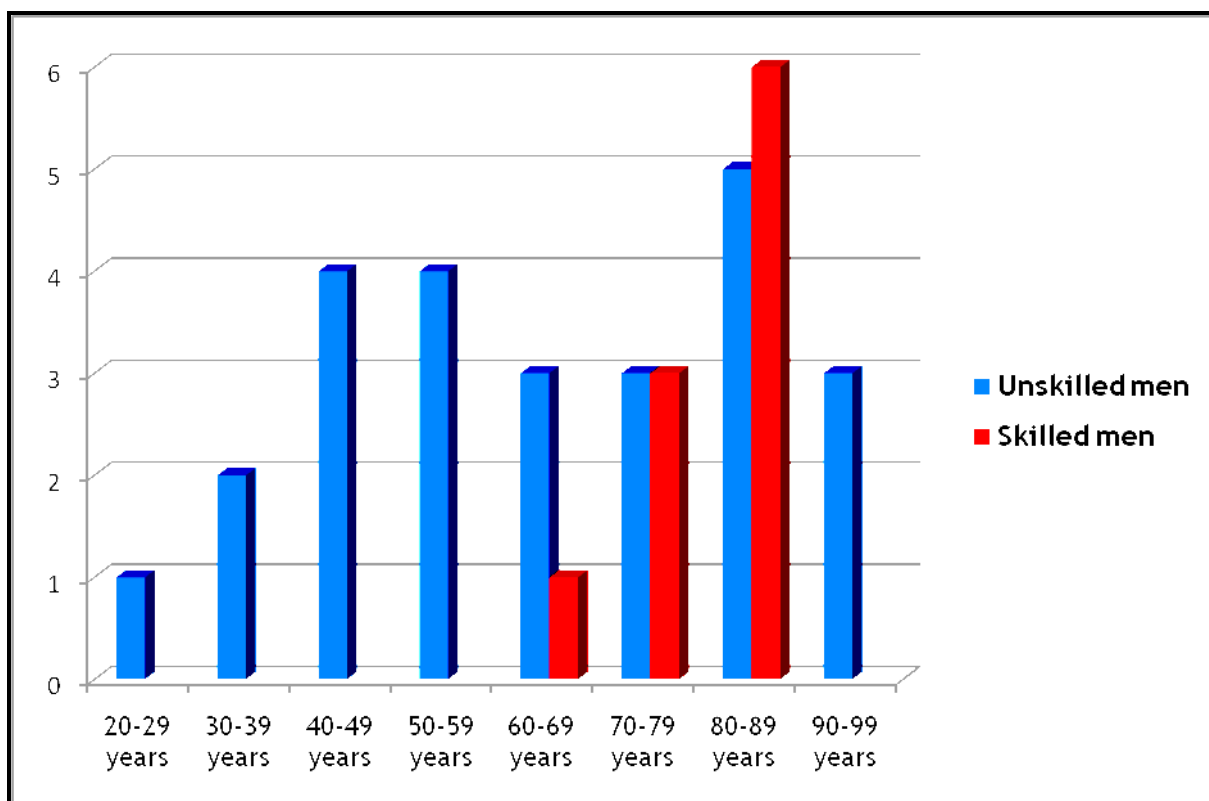
**Death rates of males under 10 is nearly 10 x higher on average than other age groups, whose life was mostly in the Georgian era, c. 1700-1800, East Tytherton Moravian Church**





We would expect social origins to impact death rates. A correlation between life expectancy and occupation should prove instructive.

Analysis of the *Moravian Non-Conformist Registers* shows that skilled men showed a *mean* life expectancy greater than less literate labourers, namely 9 years. The mean life expectancy for skilled people (bakers, weavers, etc) was  $\approx 74$  years ( $n = 20$ ) and that for labourers  $\approx 65$  years ( $n = 14$ ). These figures are controlled for infant mortality, which was about ten times that of any other age group.

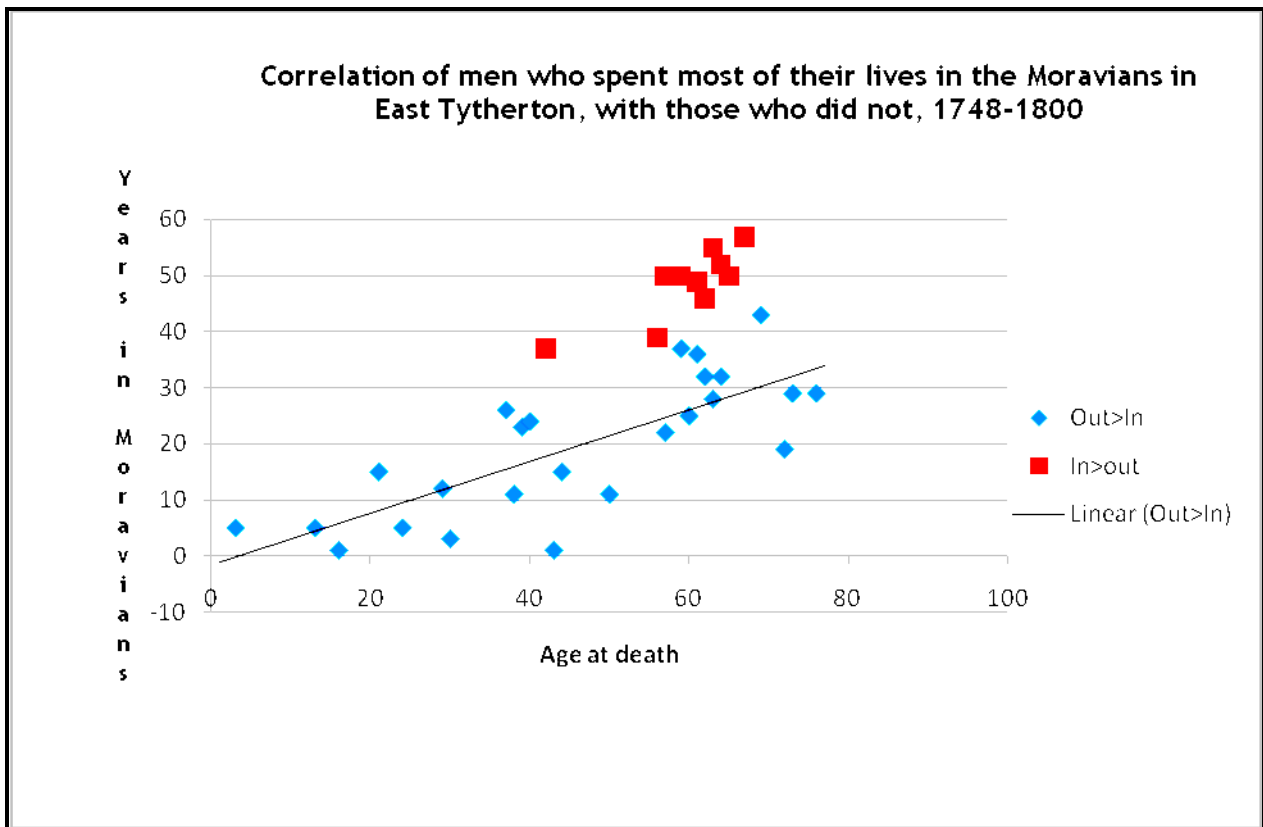


**Life Expectancy of skilled tradesmen compared to labourers, East Tytherton Moravian Community, 1748-1800**

The *modal* life expectancy showed only a two-year difference (82.5 years for skilled men, and 80 years for labourers). These figures show life expectancy far above the average at the time, and probably represent both good genes and the huge and atypical social support within the Moravians. It also reflects the greatest range for unskilled men, and the erratic shape of this specific graph - in which case the *mean* might be a more reliable guide. It would be interesting to know how long these men had been Moravians, and whether this might be a factor in their life expectancy compared with men who were members only briefly.

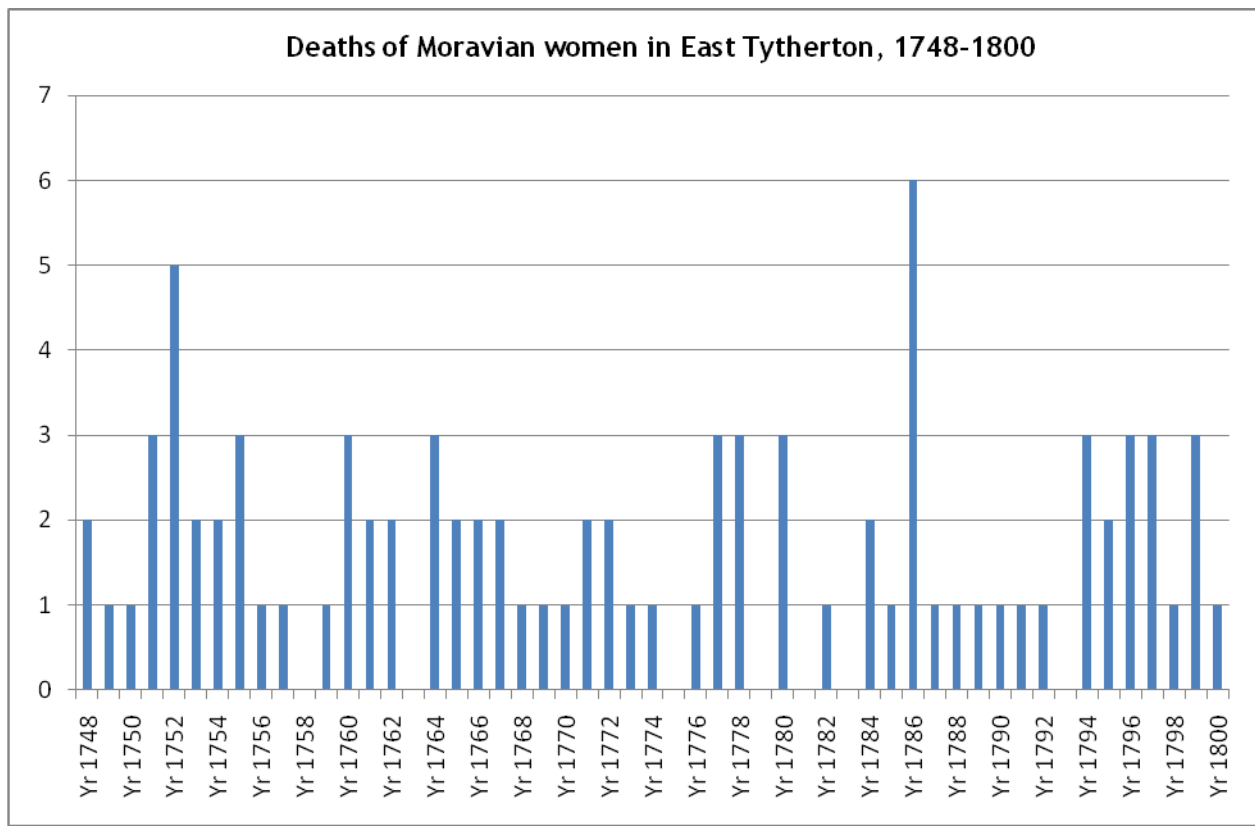
The scatterplot (below) tends to support this, with a weak positive correlation with increased life expectancy with committed Moravian membership. The practice of men of working age (30-60 years) needs looking at in more depth: why are those who are less committed more likely to die in this time of life?

The latest, and possibly the best longevity research to date, is in the Terman Project. This shows that 'prudence and conscientiousness' are the best indicators of longevity. This is supported by what we know of other groups, namely the Puritans and Quakers both of whom showed great conscientiousness and prudence - and exceptional longevity. This is not surprising. Conscientious people are more likely to be careful in every respect. They look after their own; they are likely to be moral; they will avoid recklessness in the way they live their lives; they care about their marriages.



**Commitment to the East Tytherton Moravian Community is correlated to greater life expectancy**

Finally, at an even more local level, nominal (following names) linkages need to be drawn. The Moravian Records (as a part of the neighbouring Bremhill Parish) fill in the typical lives of several families much more fully than the Parish Registers alone.<sup>1</sup> Such stories can be correlated to, in particular, the ministers' often very detailed Diaries. For example, the 1752 peak (below), is related to an outbreak of an epidemic within one family, the Brights. We find this described in the minister's Dairy of the time. The mean number of deaths is around 1.6, about one-third of what is happening in 1752, and even less than 1786. Clearly there was a very local crisis here.



## 10 . Other sources:

Mary Prince (1831). *The History of Mary Prince, A West Indian Slave*. Various publishers.  
 R. Moody (2009). *The Life and Letters of William Lisle Bowles*, Hobnob Press, Salisbury.  
 H. Friedman & L. Martin (2011). *The Longevity Project*, Hay House, London.

## NOTES

<sup>i</sup> This is important, as in Wiltshire pluralism and absenteeism was rife amongst Anglican clergy. Nearly 50% of incumbents were not resident in their parishes. This must have had a detrimental effect on the verisimilitude of the Parish Registers. West Wiltshire was also notable for the high percentage of Dissenters, which may also have affected parish records.