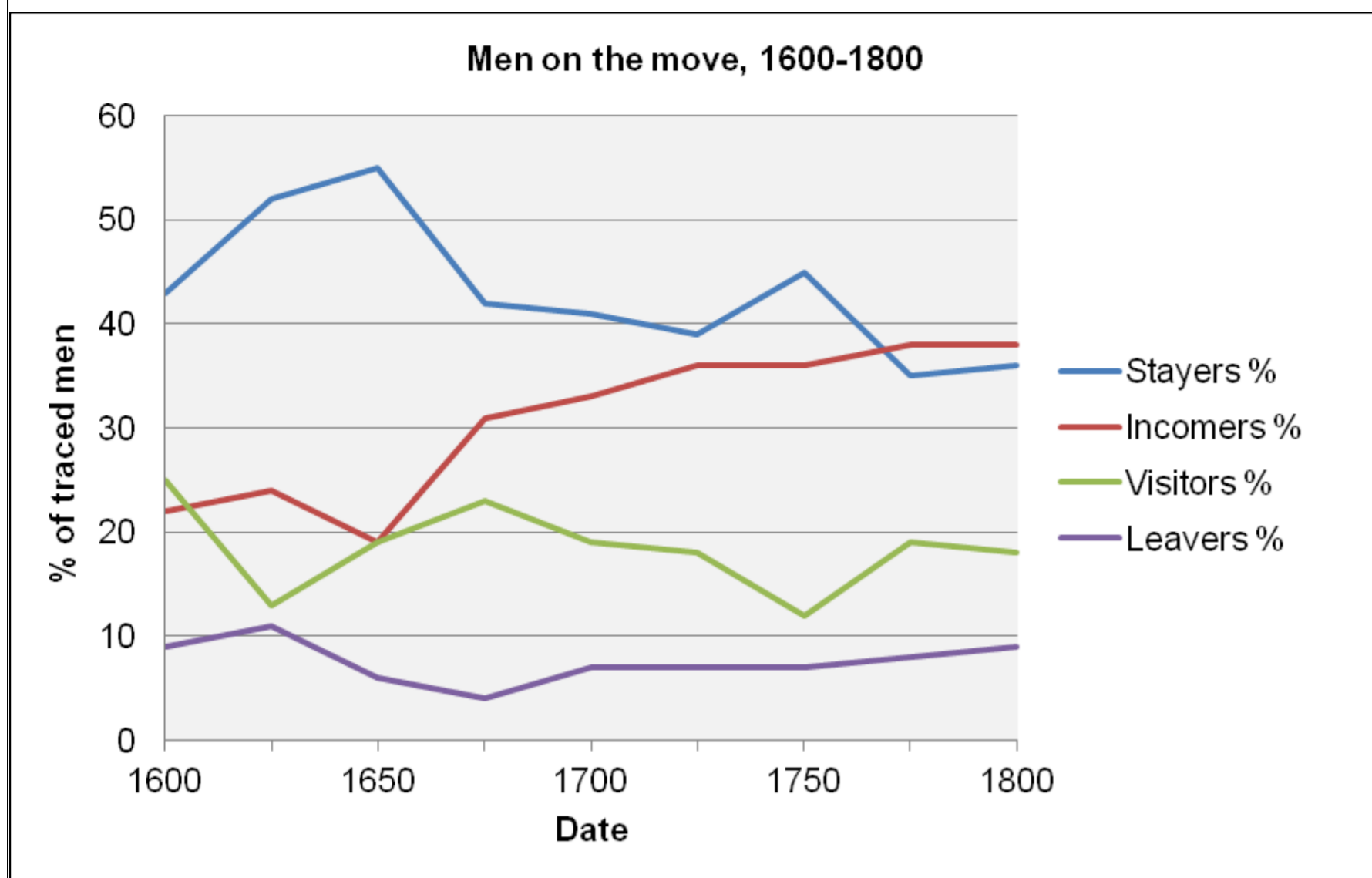


Stonehouse 1600-1800: who moved?

The old parish and manor of Stonehouse covered twice the area of the modern town. The population grew from about 450 in 1600 to about 800 in 1750, then faster to about 1412 in the census of 1801. There were a few incomers from Europe before 1500, but by 1600 the population seems to have been drawn from England, Wales and Scotland.



The main movements of about 90% of the men, aged over 16, who lived in Stonehouse between 1600 and 1800, have been tracked from original records.

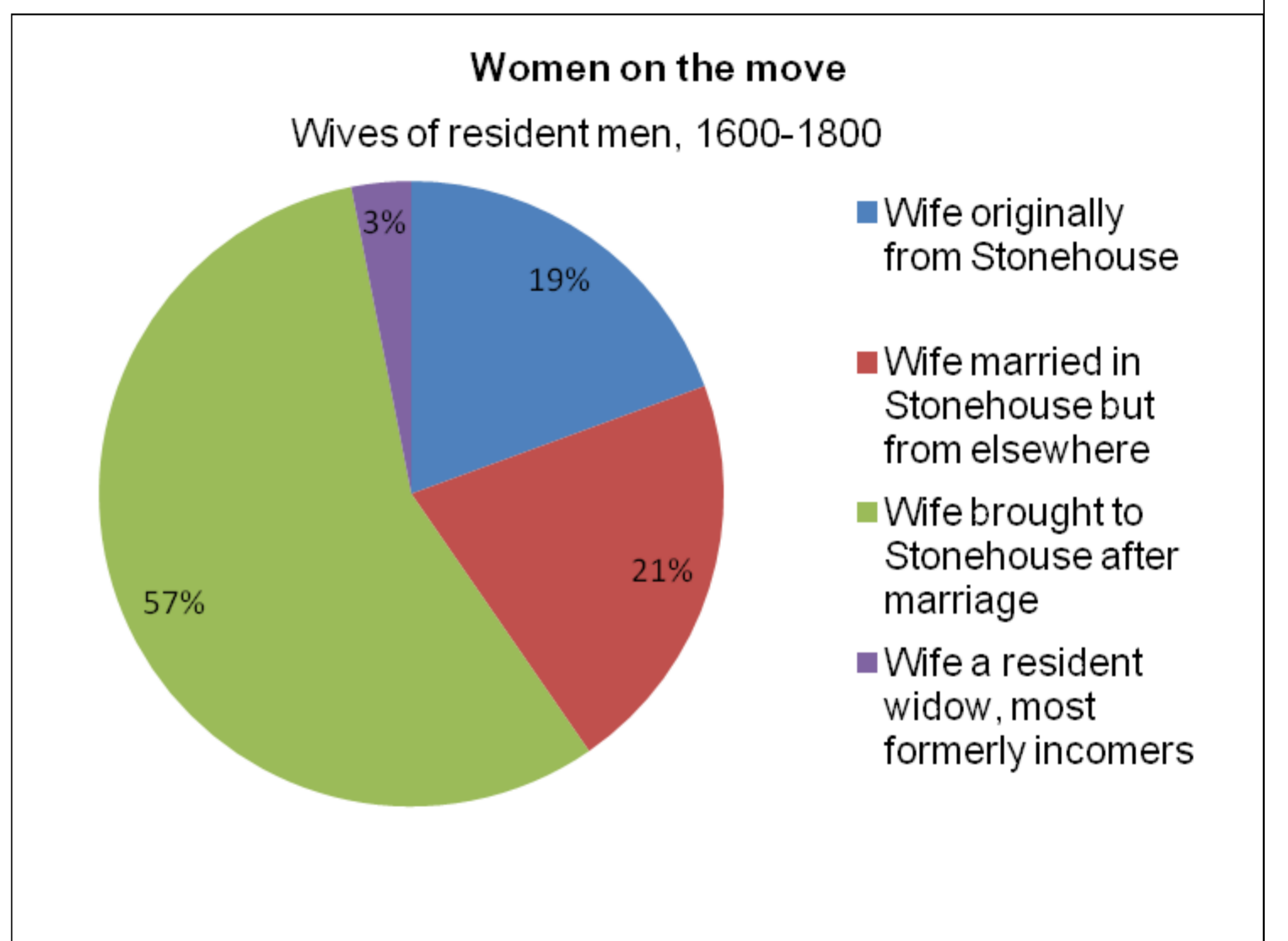
These men would have provided about a third of the population. However, married women and children would have moved with them, so they can suggest what happened to many people.

Fewer than half of the men stayed based in Stonehouse for life. However, in 1600, net immigration, the excess of permanent incomers over permanent leavers, stood at about 10% of the men. This proportion increased in the 18th century, adding to the natural population rise. About 5% of the men could not be sufficiently tracked before 1750, rising to perhaps 25% after that. Most of these were probably incomers, a group growing relatively larger towards 1800 than is shown here.

Women were also mobile. Manorial records do not include them, but many may be traced as residents through the marriages made by two thirds of the men. Many young men and women found partners while working away for a time as apprentices, live-in labourers or servants.

Four fifths of these marriages throughout the period were to women who came into the parish, before or after marriage. Young women would also have left Stonehouse.

About 70% of the unmarried men left to settle elsewhere, although three quarters of these leavers had come in as visitors.



Former Swan Inn, Stonehouse High Street. Now Orchard House.

Women could gain property by marriage, and also provide access to it for their husbands. Sarah Taylor came to Stonehouse from Quedgley in 1727, when her father William became landlord of the Swan Inn, Stonehouse. She had three husbands who settled in the house in turn, the first from Longney, the second from near Cricklade in Wiltshire, and only the third born in Stonehouse.